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Inter-Arab Affairs

UAE, Qatar, Bahrain Stress Adherence to Boycott

JN2308114790 Abu Dhabi Domestic Service in Arabic 0930 GMT 23 Aug 90

[Text] United Nations—The United Arab Emirates [UAE] has said that it is committed completely and without reservations to the Security Council resolutions providing for sanctions on Iraq for its aggression on fraternal Kuwait. The necessary measures have been taken to implement these resolutions. This came in a message by Muhammad Husayn al-Sha'ali, the UAE's permanent representative at the United Nations, to UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar, in reply to the latter's messages to UN member states in which he asked for assurances on abidance by the boycott resolutions.

In his message, Mr. al-Sha'ali stressed that the UAE will provide the UN secretary general with the necessary information on the measures it has taken and will take to implement the Security Council resolutions, especially Resolution No. 661 of 1990. The UN secretary general also received messages from the representatives of Bahrain and Qatar stressing their countries' adherence to the boycott decision.

ACC Official Comments on Gulf Crisis

NC2208174190 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1705 GMT 22 Aug 90

[Text] Cairo, 22 Aug (MENA)—Dr. Hilmi Nammar, secretary general of the Arab Cooperation Council [ACC], left Cairo for Amman this afternoon.

In a predeparture statement, Dr. Nammar said the outbreak of a war in the region would have destructive consequences for the Arab world for years to come. Dr. Nammar reiterated his denial of reports that Egypt will withdraw from the ACC, adding that Egypt wants to continue in this grouping and is concerned for the future of Iraq and its people.

The ACC secretary general praised President Mubarak's role in seeking to solve the Gulf crisis, describing it as positive and constructive. Dr. Nammar pointed out that President Mubarak's appeal yesterday was objective, and expressed the hope that President Saddam Husayn would respond to it favorably as this would safeguard Arab solidarity and prevent any foreign intervention. Dr. Nammar said that the withdrawal of the Iraqi Army from Kuwait would greatly contribute toward establishing stability in the region.

Palestinian Affairs

'Arafat Presents Peace Plan to Fahd, Saddam

JN2408065190 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 0500 GMT 24 Aug 90

[Text] 'Arafat's political adviser Bassam Abu-Sharif announced that the PLO chairman has contacted King Fahd and President Saddam Husayn and presented a Palestinian peace initiative on the Gulf crisis. The plan envisages the withdrawal of Iraqi forces from Kuwait in exchange for the withdrawal of all other forces from the region. The plan also stipulates that UN forces will replace the foreign forces, and that an Arab committee will be entrusted with finding a comprehensive agreement on the problem.

Commentary Condemns U.S.-Zionist Aggression

NC2208104590 Baghdad Voice of the PLO in Arabic 0330 GMT 22 Aug 90

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] Brothers, the drums of war and aggression that the Americans are beating against the Arab nation via the Arab Gulf must have been heard even by the deaf. The politicians of the U.S. Administration are playing the game openly and without ambiguity. They are saying: O Arabs, we are coming to you with our armies and fleets even if you refuse to get involved. This fact shines brilliantly in the Arab world—land, sea, and sky.

We in the Arab nation are facing the danger of American-Zionist fire. For the American-Zionist sniper, there is no difference between one Arab and another, except in the priority of being killed from the purely technical point of view. The only good Arab is a dead Arab. This is what the dead and buried Golda Meir had said and what George Bush says today in the American way. The good Arab is the kneeling Arab who has no self-respect or dignity. The good Arab, as far as the American-Zionist enemy is concerned, is the slave Arab and the slave who prays to his American-Zionist master and waits impatiently for the daily whipping in the world of humiliation and submission.

The Arab nation can see the humiliation of those who agreed to be slaves for the American-Zionist enemy. The most insignificant sick American is superior to the highest person in the territory on which he landed. He is

pampered and rewarded. There are no worse than those who brought the American bear to their vineyard. Is there any more despicable end to those who lie flat on their stomachs so that the fleets of the American-Zionist marines can trample over their dignity in their great aggressive campaign against the land, wealth, and destinies of the Arab nation? What a miserable situation and how wretched consequences could be. Blessed is every Arab who takes a great historic stand in the face of the American-Zionist oppression. Blessed is every Arab who has decided to protect himself and defend his dignity and freedom in deciding his fate against the fleets of American-Zionist aggression, robbery, and humiliation. Victory is for the free Arab people who maintain their dignity against the treacherous American-Zionist enemy.

PNC Speaker Invited To Visit Tehran

JN2408073590 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0620 GMT 24 Aug 90

[Text] Amman, 24 Aug (INA)—Shaykh 'Abd-al-Hamid al-Sa'ih, Palestine National Council [PNC] speaker, will leave for Tehran within the next few days.

A responsible PNC source has told the INA correspondent in Amman that the visit comes in response to an official invitation Shaykh al-Sa'ih received from the Iranian Majlis speaker with the aim of bolstering ties between the two parties.

Egypt

Mubarak Receives Syrian Foreign Minister 21 Aug

NC2108092190 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 0900 GMT 21 Aug 90

[Text] President Husni Mubarak this morning received Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar'. The meeting was attended by Dr. 'Isamat 'Abd-al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, and the Syrian ambassador in Cairo.

Grand Shaykh To Lead Delegation to Tehran

LD2308143790 Tehran IRNA in English 1321 GMT 23 Aug 90

[Text] Athens, Aug. 23, IRNA—The Grand Shaykh of Al-Azhar, Jad al-Haq, is to lead a delegation of Egyptian 'ulema and Islamic leaders to Tehran in the next few weeks to discuss the release of the remaining Egyptian mercenaries in Iran captured fighting along the Iraqi forces during the 8-year long imposed war.

The Cyprus-based weekly AL-MAWQIF AL-ARABIC citing sources in Cairo said the Egyptian delegation's visit to Tehran was made possible following Iran's participation in the Islamic foreign ministers' conference in Cairo early this month.

The Islamic Republic's delegation to the Cairo meeting was led by deputy chief of the Islamic Propagation Organisation (IPO) Hojjat ol-Eslam Mohammad 'Ali Taskhiri. The Iranian delegation's visit to Egypt was the first since Tehran cut off ties with Cairo in 1979 for signing the treacherous Camp David Accord with the illicit zionist state of Israel. At the meet, Hoj. Taskhiri took the Egyptian Government to task over the issue.

Cairo gave special treatment and much importance to the Iranian delegation at the conference, a signal that Egypt is eager to resume diplomatic relations with Tehran, AL-MAWQIF said.

Embassy To Remain in Kuwait; Minister to USSR

JN2408064790 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 0500 GMT 24 Aug 90

[Mustafa Bakri dispatch from Cairo]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] The Cairo newspaper AL-JUMHURIYAH says that Cairo will not move its Kuwait embassy to Baghdad.

AL-AHRAM says that Foreign Minister 'Isamat 'Abd-al-Majid will pay a visit to Moscow within the next few days to meet with Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze, who earlier met with Iraqi deputy prime minister Sa'dun Hammadi. The visit is in response to a request from the Soviet leadership. According to a statement by the Soviet ambassador in Cairo, the visit is extremely important. [passage omitted]

Further Reportage on Al-'Aqabah Return Route

21 Aug Arrivals

NC2108203090

[Editorial report] Cairo MENA in Arabic at 1205 GMT on 21 August reports in a Cairo-datelined item that "a ship carrying 10,000 Egyptian nationals and 424 vehicles arrived in Nuwaybi' today. The Egyptians are coming from Iraq and Kuwait.

"This was stated by Engineer Sulayman Mutawalli, minister of transport, communication, and maritime transport, who added that the Egyptian nationals and their vehicles had been ferried from al-'Aqabah in four trips."

At 1400 GMT on 21 August, Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic reports: "The Council of Ministers today decided to set up an operations room under the suprvision of Engineer Sulayman Mutawalli, minister of transport, communication, and maritime transport. The committee will include representatives from the ministries concerned and will be in charge of Egyptian nationals returning from Iraq and Kuwait.

"The Tourism and Civil Aviation Ministry will organize daily flights between al-'Aqabah and Cairo as of tomorrow, 22 August. The Transport Ministry has decided to operate a new ferry line between al-'Aqabah and Sharm al-Shaykh.

"The Ministry of Social Affairs will set up tents to house and protect nationals. The Health Ministry has sent medical teams to provide medical services to Egyptian nationals. The Supply Ministry has sent food supplies to distribute among Egyptian nationals along the road.

"The Ministry of Emigration is currently collecting information on the problems facing returnees in an attempt to resolve them. For its part, the Ministry of Petroleum will establish car service stations along the roads to repair and refuel cars."

12,163 22 Aug

NC2208175690 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1113 GMT 22 Aug 90

[Text] Cairo, 22 Aug (MENA)—A total of 12,163 Egyptian nationals arrived in Nuwaybi' port today from Iraq and Kuwait, via the Jordanian port of al-'Aqabah.

Engineer Sulayman Mutawalli, minister of transport, communication, and maritime transport, stated this, adding that the Egyptian nationals were transported, along with their 17 cars, in four trips by ferryboats Farah, al-'Arish, and al-Husayn.

In another development, two planes carrying about 400 Egyptian passengers arrived at Cairo Airport today from al-'Aqabah. Seven more EgyptAir planes are scheduled to fly back about 1,200 Egyptians waiting in al-'Aqabah today.

1,070 23 Aug

NC2308084290 Cairo MENA in English 0725 GMT 23 Aug 90

[Text] Cairo, August 23 (MENA)—Some 1,070 Egyptians who were working in Kuwait, returned home this morning coming from al-'Aqabah aboard five EgyptAir flights.

These flights come within the context of the airlift established between al-'Aqabah and Cairo in order to relieve the backlog of Egyptians in Jordanian territory

Officers, Troops To Assist

NC2308131890 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 23 Aug 90

[Text] Interior Minister Major General 'Abd-al-Halim Musa has stated that the Ministry has dispatched a group of officers from the state security and passport departments and some specially trained troops to return the Egyptians who are still in Kuwait and Iraq. The group will guide the citizens on roads in the area between Kuwait and Saudi Arabia.

The interior minister praised the cooperation among the various ministries to return the Egyptians and solve their problems. He added that some 100 buses, in addition to air force and civilian aircraft, are currently transporting the Egyptians.

Transfer Efforts Detailed

NC2308172990

[Editorial report] At 1345 GMT on 23 August, Cairo MENA in Arabic reports in a Cairo-datelined item that "Engineer Sulayman Mutawalli, minister of transport, communications, and maritime transport, today affirmed that the issue of the backlog of Egyptians in Jordan will be resolved during the next week.

"In a statement following the meeting held today by the operations room in charge of the Egyptian returnees from Kuwait and Iraq, the minister said Egypt will operate a new sea route between al-'Aqabah and Sharm al-Shaykh as of 24 August to transport passengers.

"The minister added that 15,000 Egyptians and 700 cars will be transported as of tomorrow in a bid to end the backlog of Egyptians within four days."

Then, at 1355 GMT on 23 August Cairo MENA in Arabic carries the following Baghdad-datelined item: "Egyptian workers and their families who arrived in Baghdad from Kuwait have started to gather in large numbers in the Iraqi capital's hotels. This congestion became noticeable yesterday after the border authorities reduced the number of those leaving Iraq for the Iraqi-Jordanian borders as a result of the extreme congestion in the border areas and after Jordan closed its borders last night to those coming from Iraq until the increasing numbers of arrivals in Jordanian territories have left.

"Egyptian workers and their families continued to arrive in Baghdad today. Several hundred arrived today, and large numbers arrived yesterday as has been the case over the past few days following the explosive events in the Gulf which started on 2 August. Some of them assembled with their vehicles and possessions in front of the Egyptian Embassy and Consulate in Baghdad, which are extending urgent facilities and services and facilitating their departure to Egypt.

"In view of this situation, yesterday the Egyptian Embassy continued its contacts with Iraqi officials to facilitate the travel of Egyptians. They also continued to meet the returnees' urgent needs. The embassy brought in more staff to meet these needs, to take care of the returnees during their stay in Iraq, and to obtain residence permits for them until borders are open and they can leave.

"Sources at the Egyptian Embassy in Baghdad said today that the competent Iraqi authorities told the embassy that there are no restrictions on the movement of Egyptians working in Kuwait or on their departure with their possessions and their various equipment.

"On the other hand, the Iraqi customs department has decided to ban those leaving Iraq from taking with them all imported or locally produced goods and commodities, particularly foodstuffs. The decision of the department excludes the personal belongings of those leaving.

"In a statement to MENA, sources at the Egyptian Embassy said that the competent Egyptian departments in Amman had told the embassy in Baghdad that Jordan has set up three new assembly centers for looking after departing Egyptians. Previously, there was only one center.

"There are now around 40,000 Egyptians in Jordan. They are among the 100,000 Arabs and foreigners who had come from Kuwait and Iraq."

Then, at 1400 GMT on 23 August, Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic reports that "An official source in the presidential office said today that working on instructions from President Husni Mubarak, our air force today established an airlift between Egypt and Jordan to expedite the transport of the Egyptians who arrived in Jordan from Iraq and Kuwait. Some 2,000 Egyptians have so far been transported by the air force aircraft.

"EgyptAir has been instructed to increase its flights to Amman to help return the Egyptians to the homeland. The air force aircraft transported huge quantities of tents, medical equipment, and food to the Egyptians who had arrived in Jordan."

Economy Minister's Visit to Damascus Postponed

NC2408050190 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1945 GMT 23 Aug 90

[Text] Cairo, 23 Aug (MENA)—MENA has learned that the visit by the economic delegation led by Economy and

Foreign Trade Minister Dr. Yusri Mustafa to Damascus scheduled for 26 August has been postponed to another date that will be determined through coordination between the two countries.

Reliable sources at the Syrian Embassy in Cairo stated that the reason for the postponement of the Egyptian economic delegation's visit to Damascus and of the meeting of the two countries' joint economic committee is related to the current developments in the region and the recent escalation in the Gulf following the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait. This requires a reassessment of the situation and its probabilities.

Crude Oil Prices Increase $4 Per Barrel

NC2308175390 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1615 GMT 23 Aug 90

[Excerpt] Cairo, 23 Aug (MENA)—The committee for setting the price of Egyptian oil decided to increase the selling price by $4 a barrel as of today.

The price of Egyptian oil is as follows:

Khalij al-Zayt and Ra's al-Bihar crude: $30.80 a barrel.

Suez Gulf crude: $30.50 a barrel.

Bala'im crude: $29.50 a barrel.

Gharib crude: $28.20 a barrel. [passage omitted]

Paper Says Iraqi Infantryman Defects

90P40117 Cairo AL-AHRAM AL-DUWALI in Arabic 18 Aug 90 p 1

[Text] An Iraqi soldier has been able to escape from Kuwait after participating in the invasion by falsely claiming that he was Egyptian and crossing the Iraqi-Jordanian boundaries with a counterfeit passport. He entered Egypt via Nuwaybi' and gave himself up to the Egyptian security authorities in Cairo. A reporter from AL-AHRAM has learned that the Iraqi soldier gave an exciting account of the repugnant Iraqi invasion of Kuwait and the disgusting acts committed by some Iraqi soldiers inside Kuwaiti territory. [He said that] the soldiers were deceived, being made to believe by the Iraqi leadership that they were going to fight against Israel and emancipate Palestine via Lebanon. They then found themselves in Kuwait!

The Iraqi soldier's name is As'ad Salman (30 years old) of the infantry. He said that he could not submit to firing a single round against his Kuwaiti brothers. He added that the Iraqi soldiers are fighting under duress and coercion by an execution battalion, which has received orders to kill any soldier that refuses to execute military orders.

*Nation Continues Kuwaiti Dinar Exchange

90P40118 Cairo AL-WAFD in Arabic 10 Aug 90 p 2

[Report by Jamal Shawqi]

[Text] Official economic sources have confirmed the Egyptian Government's continued disbursement of the Kuwaiti dinar and its exchange into other currencies. The sources commended the position taken by Egypt and its banks, despite the suspension by all world banks of exchange transactions. The sources estimated the amount of losses besetting the Egyptian economy due to ongoing exchange transactions—in light of the uncertainty of the current situation—to have been approximately $100 million during the last week.

Moreover, AL-WAFD has learned that the Egyptian Government has issued directives guaranteeing Kuwaiti investments in Egypt, and the sources emphasized that it [the government] has not been influenced by the "revolutionary" Kuwaiti government's [quotation marks as published] announcement of the standardization of Iraqi and Kuwaiti currencies, which will lead to a depreciation of the Kuwaiti dinar's value to only about one [Egyptian] pound. The sources indicated that most Kuwaiti investments in Egypt are at the investment projects authority and, as they are not stocks or bonds, will not be affected by the said currency standardization or by Kuwaiti events. The sources also stressed that Kuwaiti investments in Egypt are over $300 million, aside from Kuwaiti Government investments, which are about $200 million.

AL-WAFD has also learned that the leadership of the Egyptian banking system is currently holding a series of intensive meetings to discuss disruption of Arab and world financial markets and its impact on financial markets and foreign currency prices in Egypt. The definition of a new system for the dinar is also being discussed.

Oil Minister Views 'Motive' for Gulf Crisis

NC2308151590 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1050 GMT 23 Aug 90

[Text] Cairo, 23 Aug (MENA)—'Abd-al-Hadi Qandil, minister of petroleum and mineral resources, has said that everyone will lose in the event of a war in the Gulf. He warned that the Middle East is currently being replanned [yu'ad takhtituh] and will never again be the same region that we have known since the end of World War II.

In an interview published today in AL-JUMHURIYAH, the minister said that Western countries, particularly the United States, have realized that one of the elements necessary for their continued existence, which is energy, exists abroad and not within their own borders, and that they have failed to develop alternative sources of energy. The need to secure the sources of energy abroad has reshaped U.S. foreign policy. For America the Gulf is nothing more than sand and oil, Qandil stated.

The minister added: The main motive behind the crisis was not the interference of one state in the affairs of another or

the overthrow of the regime of a neighboring country. The main motive for the international campaign against the Iraqi leadership was the fear that this leadership would take possession of a quarter of the world's oil reserves and might take control of other oil reserves. This would have disrupted the balance in the international system which is heavily dependent on energy.

The petroleum minister noted that there is a serious dimension to the crisis. Oil and gas are used in the process of sea water desalination. If oil were hit, desalination would stop.

As for the current OPEC situation, Qandil said that the mere convocation of an emergency meeting will mean the start of a drop in prices, for the meeting will be devoted to increasing production.

The minister said that the Gulf crisis has made the oil market nervous of late. He noted that the actual volume of trade in the oil market was not large and that prices were fluctuating with every move by naval ships and troops and every political statement.

Qandil said that there is no excessive demand on oil in the international market to put any real pressure on prices. However, there are fears that the picture may change completely if the current political crisis develops into actual war.

The minister answered a question by saying that he does not think that a single state will be allowed to become a regional power in the Gulf.

Qandil concluded by pointing out that the world reserves of oil, excluding those of Saudi Arabia and Kuwait, will be exhausted by the year 2010. As for Egypt, its reserves are expected to last for about 15 years. Qandil mentioned that Egypt produces 900,000 barrels of crude oil, together with 80,000 [figure as received] barrels of gas [period not specified], and that it is an exporting country. He noted that foreign investors share in the production of 500,000 million barrels.

Saddam's Response Termed 'Void of Content'

NC2308194190 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1755 GMT 23 Aug 90

[Bahiy-al-Din Shu'ayb commentary: "A Message Void of Content"]

[Text] In a lengthy message replete with humanitarian expressions, President Saddam Husayn responded to President Mubarak's appeal. Instead of specifying points to clarify his stand on the crisis, which is causing sleepless nights for all Arabs, the Iraqi president spoke at length about Arab social justice, the wealthy and poor, the history of his life, and the need to seize others' wealth.

We do not believe that it is appropriate in the current grave, difficult circumstances for him to give a philosophical talk which is more like a naive political leaflet. The principal points of President Mubarak's appeal centered on urging President Saddam Husayn to respond to the voice of reason in order not to drag the Iraqi people and the Arab nation into the abyss. Therefore, it was strange that the Iraqi president forgot everything about the current crisis and its tragic dimensions in order to preach about the good things, justice, and guidance. He ignored that the most important thing for a preacher is that he himself be an example worth following.

Instead of replying to President Mubarak's appeal, which cautions against the consequences of Iraq's action, Saddam Husayn tries to incite President Mubarak against Kuwait and Saudi Arabia, claiming that both failed to assist Egypt in its crisis. We would like to make it clear to President Saddam that Egypt, when it makes any efforts on the Arab level, will not sell out its principles for all the money in the world. Egypt does not handle its policy from the stock market.

Nevertheless, we would like to ask President Saddam: What did Iraq give to Egypt during the oil price hikes? Iraq did not give anything to Egypt but was instead lying in wait for Egypt. Saddam gathered the Arabs during the Baghdad summit to boycott and harm Egypt. But when it found that Iraq was in a grinding crisis during the war against Iran, Egypt hastened to help Saddam, disregarding what Iraq had done against Egypt.

The Gulf states Saddam accused of having been centers of plots against him for many years are the same ones which supported him in his war against Iran. This support was much more than he had expected. Kuwait came under vicious attacks from Iran. Furthermore, the amir of Kuwait was subjected to an assassination attempt because of his material and political support for Iraq.

The issue has never been one of wealth or support. It is a political issue in the first place. He wants to seize the Gulf's wealth to achieve his political aspirations and to establish an empire for himself.

Saddam Husayn talks about Islam in his message to President Mubarak. He should realize that the true Islamic message aims to unify the ranks of the nation and not to divide it, and to safeguard the Muslims' unity, livelihood, and dignity. True Islam propagates love, amity, and human understanding—not hatred and jealousy. The dark, difficult atmosphere through which the principal Arab cause is passing is the result of Saddam's policy, which made the Iraqi people and all the Arab people a target for a major catastrophe unprecedented in the Arab world.

President Saddam Husayn wants to distract our attention from this catastrophe by talking about his Islamic descent. He seems to have forgotten that this noble origin dictates he respect the will of man, his freedom, and dignity. It dictates he be faithful to his people's well-being and that he fend off the danger threatening his people and nation and not expose them to disasters.

President Mubarak's appeal addressed Saddam's dignity and urged him in the name of Arabism and Islam. But Saddam turned a deaf ear toward all appeals. Saddam's disregard of the Iraqi people has driven these people toward massacre, his disregard of the Arab nation has caused the division of this nation, and his disregard of Islam has harmed his dignity.

Article Excuses Use of Force To Unite Arabs

JN2108183390 Cairo AL-AHALI in Arabic 15 Aug 90 p 5

[Article: "Before We Rush To Condemn Saddam Husayn" by Dr. Muhammad Sha'lan]

[Excerpts] When the Berlin Wall fell down, the German people were pleased by the reunification of the two parts. The rich then began to help the poor, and the rich West opened its land and property for the poor East. This was preceded by attempts to raise the status of defeated and fragmented Germany by force at the hands of Hitler and before him Bismarck. Although the world tried to use force to attack that unity in two world wars, the German people, who were proud of their nationalism stood fast, remained patient, and restored their strength under defeat.

The situation seems to be different in our Arab nation, which enjoys the unity of nationalism, language, and Islamic doctrine that embodies other religious doctrines. Fearing that the small entities might unite, colonialism divided the nation in the name of different nationalities and even tribes and instigated the Nasirist block against an imaginary Islamic front. This is still one of the major weapons used by colonialism to fragment the Arab nation. Islamic currents renounce both patriotic and national sentiments. Muslim youths are deceived by the idea that struggle should be in Afghanistan and not Palestine, or between the Arabs and the Persians.

Saddam may be excused by the fact that it is the West that has entrenched the principle that the Arabs do not understand anything other than the language of force, as put by Moshe Dayan [former Israeli defense minister] following the 1967 defeat. Saddam has done nothing more than Israel, which resorted to the same logic to fulfill its expansionist dreams by occupying Sinai and the rest of Palestine's land. Saddam does the same by trying to unify the Arab Peninsula by force.

Although Egypt pursued an alternative and civilized course to achieve Arab unity through the will of peoples and unity with Syria, rejected the annexation of Kuwait by 'Abd-al-Karim Qasim [former Iraqi leader], and called for direct peace negotiations with Israel to regain Arab rights, the West pulled the carpet from under the Egyptian leadership and put it in the position of looking for a unilateral solution and abandoning its role in regaining the occupied Palestinian territories.

There is a big difference between the world's readiness to condemn Iraq and its readiness to put pressure on Israel. The West ignores Israel's expansion and supports the immigration of more Jews for further expansion. The West might have tempted Saddam Husayn to promote Israel's philosophy that power is the test of right. The West ignored Israel's might and rushed to condemn Saddam's might. It previously failed to support Egypt's peaceful approach and the idea that peaceful solutions are possible, and also disappointed al-Sadat and killed him morally before it killed him physically, weakening the role of Egypt, which is now exerting strenuous efforts in Mubarak's era to restore logic and peaceful dialogue as a way to solve conflicts. [passage omitted]

We hope that reconciliation will lead to reform. We wish Saddam to join in a joint leadership of one Arab nation without oppression or force. We hope that social justice will prevail among Arab countries and not only in certain Arab countries, which makes citizens of a country feel superior to other Arab citizens in terms of race and tribe—a kind of superiority that is practiced by Israel over its Arab citizens under occupation since 1948. Yes, there are social injustice and tribal prejudice among the Arabs, and there is every need for the Arabs to unite through accord and dialogue. Otherwise, let Saddam use the language of the age following the model of Israel and the United States.

Diplomats' Families Confined to Baghdad, Kuwait

PM2208093890 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 19 Aug 90 p 2

[Unattributed report: "Iraq Refuses To Evacuate Families of Egyptian Diplomats in Kuwait"]

[Text] Cairo, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT—AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT has learned that the Iraqi authorities have refused to evacuate the wives and families of Egyptian diplomats at the Egyptian embassies in both Kuwait and Baghdad after it had agreed to a request submitted by Egyptian Ambassador in Baghdad Sayyid Abu-Zayd. The families' luggage was unloaded from the plane before it took off for Jordan. They were then requested to return to their homes.

Some Egyptian returnees have said that the Iraqi authorities refused to provide the Egyptian ambassador in Baghdad with any clarification about that measure or about whether there was an Iraqi decision to prevent the departure of the families of Egyptian diplomats in Iraq and Kuwait.

Columnist on Saddam's 'Plot' Against Muslims

JN2208164190 Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic 20 Aug 90 p 2

[Article by Ahmad Bahjat: "The Plot"]

[Text] When the Muslims were oppressed in the early days of Islam and were deprived of the freedom of belief, the prophet asked the Muslims to seek refuge in Abyssinia, which was ruled by a fair Christian king described

by the prophet, may God's peace and blessings be upon him, as a king who oppresses no one.

The unbelievers were the relatives of the Muslims; they were Arabs like them. The king of Abyssinia was a Christian foreigner and a stranger to the Muslims. Despite this, the prophet asked them to leave their unjust relatives and take refuge with the fair foreigner king. In accordance with the logic of Staff Field Marshal Saddam Husayn, the Muslims' turning to Abyssinia is considered seeking help from Abyssinian imperialism, treason against pan-Arabism in accordance with the Ba'th view, and undermining the fraternal duty to give a free hand to the unjust person to do away with the oppressed without resorting to anybody to prevent him from doing so.

Saddam Husayn speaks about foreign interference while ignoring the fact that his invasion of Kuwait is the direct reason for this interference and the excuse the West was waiting for to make this interference. He speaks about the Muslims who were insulted by this interference while forgetting that he is the hero of this insult.

He speaks about desecrating Mecca and al-Madina by the presence of foreign forces, which are 1,500 km away from these places, while not believing that his invasion of Kuwait has desecrated the Muslims' sanctities. It is really his crimes that desecrate the holy Kaaba. The real desecration of Kaaba is in terrifying the Muslims in Kuwait, expelling them from their homes, raping their women, killing their children, and destroying their power in the interest of our enemy.

Saddam Husayn, along with other tyrants, is not aware that human inviolability is greater in God's eyes than that of Kaaba, as the prophet, may God's peace and blessings be upon him, has said. Iraq's tyrant is also unaware that he is leading his people and all Arabs to the abyss. He speaks about a plot against the Muslims while the suspect role he is playing and his rule over Iraq constitute the real plot against the Muslims.

Paper Calls Iraqi Initiative 'Total Capitulation'

JN2208164590 Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic 20 Aug 90 p 7

["Just an Opinion" column by Salah Muntasir]

[Text] The letter Saddam Husayn sent to Iranian President Hashemi-Rafsanjani cannot be described—as some people claim—as "an Iraqi initiative toward Iran." This letter shows a total capitulation in which Saddam accepted all Iran's terms and demands. This capitulation is not shrouded in equivocal or ambiguous terms. No, it is communicated in unmistakably clear and unequivocal terms. That is because after he agreed, in the first part of the letter, to drop his claims on Shatt al-'Arab, said that he would withdraw his troops from Iranian territory, and added that he would begin to release Iranian prisoners of war [POW's] without waiting for an Iranian response, Saddam said verbatim: "Brother President 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani, in these decisions of ours, everything has become clear. And thus, all that you have been persistently demanding and wanting has been realized. The only thing that remains to be done is to sign the relevant documents." Saddam was so hasty that he started to swap POW's as of Friday [17 August] even before obtaining an Iranian response.

Let us read again the words Saddam Husayn addressed to President Rafsanjani: "And thus, all that you have been persistently demanding and wanting has been realized." I wonder whether anyone concerned with law or any beginner in politics could call this anything but unconditional capitulation. If not, what then can it be called?

In my opinion, this is what Saddam Husayn should be tried for. Nobody is against peace. As a matter of fact, no people look forward to peace and experience feelings of jubilation whenever a status of peace is attained more than Arabs. However, what we are witnessing is an unforgivable crime.

Saddam Husayn is the man who ignited his holy war against Iran. He is the man who instigated the Arabs and asked them to maintain hostility toward Iran. Saddam Husayn built a bridge of hatred between Saudi Arabia, which usually opens up its heart to all peoples, and Iran. As for Egyptian-Iranian ties, they deteriorated because of the Iraq-Iran war. Egyptians were martyred in the war that Iraq termed "the second al-Qadisiyah" to indicate that it is the second victory against the Persians, following the first victory by Sa'd Bin-Abi-Waqqas [Islamic military commander] in the al-Qadisiyah battle in the year 635. However, there is a big difference between the two battles.

A year ago, and to be more exact, on 8 August last year, Saddam Husayn sponsored "an agonizing [haflat ta'dhib] party" at the Baghdad stadium hosting other leaders of the Arab Cooperation Council: Husni Mubarak, King Husayn, and 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih. Egyptian television carried this party live over five hours. The military parade conducted at this party cost hundreds of millions of dollars. This party sang the praises of the greatest leader of the nation, the leader of pan-Arabism, the leader of victory, and the leader of the al-Qadisiyah battle. They were five hours of personality cult and of continuous talk on his great victory against the Iranians. What falsehood and hypocrisy is this?

Japanese Foreign Minister Leaves for Ankara

NC2208203590 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2020 GMT 22 Aug 90

[Text] Cairo, 22 Aug MENA)—Japanese Foreign Minister Taro Nakayama and members of the delegation accompanying him left Cairo for Ankara this evening following a one-day visit to Egypt, during which he was received by President Husni Mubarak.

The Japanese minister is currently on a tour of several Middle East countries.

Envoys Take Mubarak Messages to African States

NC2208185490

[Editorial report] Cairo MENA in Arabic at 1035 GMT on 22 August in a Cairo-datelined report says: "Ambassador Fawzi al-Abrashi, director of the Diplomatic Institute at the Foreign Ministry, left Cairo for Paris this afternoon en route to the Central African Republic on the first leg of a tour that will also take him to Congo, Zaire, and Chad.

"Ambassador Fawzi al-Abrashi will deliver messages from President Husni Mubarak to the heads of these four states, briefing them on the latest developments in the Gulf in light of Iraq's invasion of Kuwait."

At 1110 GMT on 22 August, Cairo MENA in Arabic, in a report also datelined Cairo, carries a report which states: "Ambassador Sami Thabit, director of the Protocol Department at the Foreign Ministry, left Cairo for Abidjan this afternoon on a two-week African tour, during which he will deliver messages from President Husni Mubarak to the presidents of Ivory Coast, Gabon, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Senegal, Cape Verde Islands, Gambia, Mali, and Niger, on the current situation in the Gulf.

"During his visits to these states, Ambassador Thabit will hold consultations on ways of addressing the explosive situation in the Gulf and its repercussions on the African states."

In a further Cairo-datelined item at 1330 GMT on 22 August, the agency reports that Assistant Foreign Minister Ambassador Wafa' Hijazi left Cairo for Lagos, "at the beginning of an African tour which will take him to Nigeria, Benin, Togo, Ghana, Sierra Leone, and Cameroon. Ambassador Hijazi will deliver messages to the presidents of these countries from President Husni Mubarak on the Egyptian stand on the Gulf crisis and its efforts to resolve it."

Mauritania

Iraqi Minister Delivers Saddam Message

AB2308171290 Nouakchott Domestic Service in French 1430 GMT 23 Aug 90

[Text] Dr. Mundhir Ibrahim, Iraqi minister for higher education and scientific research and special emissary of President Saddam Husayn, has ended his visit. He left Nouakchott this morning. Yesterday evening, he delivered a verbal message from the Iraqi president to Colonel Maaouiya Ould Sid'Ahmed Taya, chairman of the Military Committee for National Salvation. This message concerned the brotherly relations between Mauritania and Iraq, Dr. Mundhir Ibrahim stated after the audience. He stressed, and I quote, that he expressed the high esteem which Iraq and President Saddam Husayn have for the highly nationalistic attitude demonstrated by Mauritania, in particular concerning the deployment of U.S. occupation troops to Iraq's borders.

During the audience, the Iraqi emissary said, we reviewed all the issues connected to the Arab situation and ways of warding off the dangers to Iraq and the Arab nation. The clear-sighted views expressed by the head of state during the audience will be very beneficial to us [words indistinct].

The audience took place in the presence of Mr. Hasni Ould Didi, minister of foreign affairs and cooperation, and the Iraqi ambassador to Mauritania. These two personalities also saw off the Iraqi minister upon his departure from Nouakchott.

Morocco

Measures Adopted To Deal With Oil Shortage

LD2308131490 Rabat MAP in English 1232 GMT 23 Aug 90

[Text] Rabat, Aug. 23 (MAP/POOL/UMA)—Morocco is adopting a series of measures to face the energy situation resulting from the Gulf crisis, it was officially announced at the end of the government council meeting, held here Wednesday.

During the meeting, Minister of Energy and Mining Driss Alaoui M'daghri said such urgent measures "mainly consist in seeking new oil suppliers to cover energy needs of our country." M'daghri noted that Morocco imports 90 per cent of its overall energy needs, with oil making up 80 per cent of these imports. He added, however, that Morocco's main suppliers were the Gulf countries, with Iraq and Kuwait at the top, supplying 60 per cent of kingdom's oil needs.

The minister also said the embargo decided by the UNO would result in Morocco's oil expenses increasing this year to more than dh 7.5 billion, compared to dh 5.9 billion in 1989 (USD 1-dh 8.3).

A ministerial commission was set up to study the various aspects regarding Moroccan economic and trade relations with Iraq and Kuwait, while at the level of the Ministry of Energy a committee was established to guarantee the needed supply level and increase the country's oil reserves.

Concerning future prospects, the government assigned itself the task to diversify supply sources, avoid adverse financial affects on the country's budget, regulate energy consumption, encourage consumption of other energy sources such as coal and gas with a view to limiting oil dependency, and promote petroleum prospecting.

Press Reviews Saddam's Proposals

LD1408163390 Rabat MAP in English 1239 GMT 14 Aug 90

[Text] Rabat, Aug. 14 (MAP)—"Certainly the proposals of Saddam Hussyn are attracting. They moreover have the merit to place Western lesson givers before their responsibility for while the [word indistinct] now for the

respect of international legality: What did they do when Israel shamelessly breached the legality?", asked AL BAYANE daily.

The daily of the Party for Progress and Socialism (PPS-procommunist) in a comment on the initiative on the Iraqi president also asked whether we should follow suit to Saddam in his deal answering that it does not [word indistinct] for Saddam knew while making the proposals that they will be ruled out by the Western world and the Israelis.

Though the move of Saddam is a delaying tactic, the daily went on, it prompted a positive reaction of the Palestinian Liberation Organization adding that the Palestinians should know that the victory of their just cause goes through a multiform struggle and not by the presentation of illusory and mock plans.

"We, the daily said, will wait that Baghdad shows us in what regard the annexation of Kuwait could make the liberation of Palestine progress".

AL-'ALAM daily, mouthpiece of the Istiqlal Party (nationalist), said the initiative was good specifying it should have been clearer "concerning the withdrawal of Iraqi (?troops from) Kuwait".

It added the Iraqi drive is positive and that if it was ruled out by Israel and the United States, because the move stresses the need to liberate the occupied Arab territories, [word indistinct] not have any influence on Arab countries. The latter should peruse [words indistinct] on condition that Iraq has intention to withdraw from Kuwait, and that the other problems be considered later on.

AL-ITTIHAD AL-ISHTIRAKI daily of the Union for Popular Forces [words indistinct] said the proposals are a diplomatic turning point of Iraq and show its readiness to revise its position concerning the annexation of Kuwait.

The most (?interesting) in the proposals, the daily said, is the point relating to Kuwait which should focus on the peaceful settlement of the issue and discard military confrontation.

The daily added that the materialization of the proposals is weak if the United States did not reconsider their first stance of refusal. The positive aspects of the proposals and the Iraqi willingness to settle the problem [words indistinct] war in the region, the daily went on.

Further Reportage on Chad, Libya Meetings

Chad's Habre Meets King Hassan

AB2308165790 Ndjamena Domestic Service in French 1900 GMT 22 Aug 90

[Excerpts] Today, the second day of his friendly and working visit to Morocco, El Hadj Hissein Habre, the president of the Republic, held the first round of talks with the Moroccan king. The arrival yesterday of President Hissein Habre in Morocco was followed closely by the arrival of Colonel al-Qadhdhafi. In the meantime, nothing indicates that we are going to witness a repeat of what happened in Bamako, as Radio Chad's special correspondent Moussa Mamman Dago in Morocco reports:

[Begin Dago recording] Chad and Morocco maintain fruitful relations. President Hissein Habre and King Hassan II are bound by a solid and long-standing friendship. The Moroccan king has been playing an important role in the territorial conflict between Chad and Libya. It was in these terms that Moroccan television commented on the arrival of the head of state in Rabat.

Indeed, President El Hadj Hissein Habre was welcomed yesterday afternoon by his Moroccan counterpart, who was accompanied by his two sons, including Crown Prince Sidi Mohamed, as well as cabinet members, officers of the Royal Armed Forces, and foreign diplomats. This was followed by the national anthems of the two countries. [passage ommitted]

In any case, the host country—Morocco—has always been concerned about the persistence of the Chad-Libya conflict. For its part, Chad has always continued to explore all paths that might lead to a peaceful resolution of the conflict; and thanks to this desire, to this determination, and to boundless patience, Chad has succeeded in achieving some diplomatic success in the search for a solution, and we all know the various results achieved: a cease-fire in September 1987; the restoration of diplomatic relations with Libya in October 1988; the signing of the Algiers General Accord in August 1989; and the Chad-Libya Joint Commission, which has just held its sixth session in Ndjamena.

Will the Moroccan capital witness one more step in the search for a solution to the Chad-Libya conflict? We shall certainly know this in the forthcoming hours or days. [end recording]

Tripartite Talks Held

LD2308204690 Tripoli Television Service in Arabic 1930 GMT 23 Aug 90

[Text] Tripartite talks were held in Rabat this evening between the brother leader of the revolution, King Hassan II of Morocco, and Chadian President Hissein Habre. The meeting was attended by the brother secretary of the People's Committee of the People's Bureau for Foreign Liaison and International Cooperation; Moroccan Foreign Minister Brother Abdellatif Filali; and Chadian Minister of External Relations Acheikh Ibn Oumar.

Habre, Al-Qadhdhafi Meet

LD2308130590 Rabat MAP in English 1222 GMT 23 Aug 90

[Text] Rabat, Aug. 23 (MAP)—Wednesday, King Hassan II had at the Royal Palace of Skhirat, a summer resort to the south of Rabat, a working session with Libyan leader Mu'ammar Al-qadhdhafi and Chadian president Hissene Habre, who had both arrived in Rabat Tuesday.

According to Moroccan pro-governmental daily 'Le Matin DU SAHARA ET DU MAGHREB', the meeting is meant to settle the Libyan-Chadian dispute over the Aouzou Strip, normalize the two countries' relations and establish a bilateral cooperation.

The daily recalled that the three countries' foreign ministers had Tuesday night a working dinner that was attended by their respective close aides and held wednesday afternoon a working session.

Observers note that the Libyan-Chadian Rabat meeting is taking place only 9 days before the Algiers Accord of 1989 expires on August 31. The Algiers Accord stipulates that if no agreement is reached between the two sides by August 31, 1990, the matter would be referred to the International Court of Justice.

Chadian Information Minister Abdou Moussa Seif told the French news agency AFP shortly before the summit meeting that Chad would propose to Libya a peace plan providing for the withdrawal of Libyan troops from the disputed border areas, the simultaneous release of POW's in the two countries and the setting up of a joint commission that would draw the final layout of borders between the two countries.

Libya is member of the Arab Maghreb Union (UMA) which also gathers Morocco, Algeria, Mauritania and Tunisia.

Parliament Urges Settlement

LD2308131490 Rabat MAP in English 1225 GMT 23 Aug 90

[Text] Rabat, Aug. 23 (MAP/POOL/UMA)—The Moroccan House of Representatives (parliament) Wednesday called on Libyan leader Mu'ammad al-Qadhdahfi and on Chadian President Hissen Habre, currently visiting Morocco, to discuss the pending problems between the two countries "in a spirit of dialogue, tolerance and Islamic brotherhood".

The Moroccan parliament which the call at the end of a meeting of the bureau of the house Wednesday evening expresed hope that the two sides reached an agreement that would guarantee the two neighbouring and brotherly peoples "ties of friendship and brotherhood" and that would revive "hope and confidence in the future among Muslims, particularly in the delicate circumstances the Arab-Islamic nation is going through".

Libyan leader and Chadian president arrived in Morocco Tuesday to hold a summit meeting devoted to settling the Libyan-Chadian dispute over the 100,1000 Km Aouzou Strip and normalizing relations between the [word indistinct] countries.

Chadian Minister Rejects Communique

AB2408090990 Paris AFP in French 2334 GMT 23 Aug 90

[Text] Rabat, 24 Aug (AFP)—This evening in Rabat, Acheikh ibn-Oumar, the Chadian minister of foreign affairs, refused to sign a joint Chad-Libya communique on the outcome of negotiations between Chad and Libya on their border dispute and prisoners of war captured by both countries during their armed conflicts in 1983 and 1987, it was observed by an AFP correspondent.

This refusal, in front of Moroccan and Chadian television cameras, led to an exchange of words between the Chadian minister and his Moroccan counterpart, Mr. Abdellatif Filali. Mr. Ibn-Oumar felt that the document "did not completely follow the instructions given" by Mr. Hissein Habre, the Chadian head of state, and Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, the Libyan leader, in Rabat since 21 August.

The journalists were then asked to leave the hall while the Chadian side left for consultations with President Habre. From where they were, the journalists later heard the Chadian foreign minister blaming his Moroccan counterpart for "cutting out" certain passages from the communique which the Morocco-Chad-Libya tripartite summit charged him to elaborate. Mr. Filali then sharply reacted to the pronouncements by the Chadian minister and in turn blamed him for "not understanding anything" about the instructions given by the three leaders. He notably stressed that "Morocco is not a party to" the conflict between Chad and Libya and, therefore, had "no interest in changing anything whatsoever."

After meeting at Mr. Filali's residence, the three ministerial delegations finally parted on this note of discord and the journalists and were asked to "leave the premises."

Col. Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, the leader of the Libyan revolution, and his Chadian counterpart, Mr. Hissein Habre, had met shortly before this incident at the Skhirat Palace where they met behind closed doors for two hours in the presence of King Hassan II and their close associates. At the end of the meeting, the Libyan and Chadian leaders took leave of the Moroccan monarch and left for their respective residences in Rabat in the same car.

As of this evening the exact reason for the Chadian side's show of disapproval was still unknown in Rabat, since the Moroccan, Libyan and Chadian delegations refused to make any comment.

An authoritative Chadian source had nevertheless told AFP in the afternoon that the two sides had virtually agreed on going to the International Court of the Hague for a peaceful settlement of their border dispute and that King Hassan of Morocco had offered his good offices to the two sides to guarantee the exchange of their prisoners.

Information Minister Views Problem

AB2408095090 Paris AFP in French 0100 GMT 24 Aug 90

[Text] Rabat, 24 Aug (AFP)—Chadian Information Minister Adoum Moussa Seif yesterday evening accused Abdellatif Filali, Moroccan minister of state for foreign affairs, of having "emptied" the draft final communique

that the Libyan and Chadian delegations should have signed following their two-day negotiations in Rabat "of all its content."

Mr. Moussa Seif told AFP that his colleague, Foreign Affairs Minister Acheikh ibn Oumar, refused to sign the final communique entrusted to Mr. Filali to elaborate, because it no longer contained "a certain number of points that figured in the draft communique and on which King Hassan II of Morocco, Colonel al-Qadhdhafi of Libya, and President Hissein Habre of Chad had agreed" during their second meeting on Thursday in Skhirat.

Among these "points," he said were "Libya's formal agreement with Chad to take recourse to the judgement of the International Court of Justice, the agreement by the two countries to no longer help any opposition group against the other side, as well as the offer made by the king of Morocco to guarantee the exchange of prisoners between the two countries."

"These points, which, in our view, are very important, did not figure in the final communique which was submitted to us," explained the Chadian minister, according to whom this document is limited only to emphasizing the "decision" of the Libyan and Chadian heads of state "to make peace in the interest of the region and their two peoples" in view of their historical and religious relations, as well as of their bonds of civilization."

"This text is completely ambiguous and not even good for the Moroccan side," Mr. Moussa Seif added. He, however, expressed his conviction that "things would be worked out today."

Al-Qadhdhafi Ends Visit, Departs

LD2408134590 Rabat Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 24 Aug 90

[Excerpt] Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, leader of the Libyan revolution, left Morocco this morning after a visit which was characterized by the audience granted to him by His Highness King Hassan II, may God make him victorious. The leader of the Libyan revolution and the delegation accompanying him were seen off at Rabat Sale airport by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Sidi Mohamed and His Royal Highness Prince Moulay Rachid. [passage omitted]

Sudan

King Husayn Arrives, Received by Al-Bashir

EA2308195090 Khartoum SUNA in English 1738 GMT 23 Aug 90

[Text] Khartoum, 23rd August (SUNA)—King Husayn of Jordan arrived here today afternoon within his Arab tour, which is aiming to find a solution to the Gulf crisis. King Husayn was received at the airport by RCC [Revolution Command Council] chairman General 'Umar Ahmad al-Bashir and a number of senior officials.

King Husayn is accompanied by the Jordanian prime minister and the head of the royal palace.

Official talks between the two sides are due to start today. King Husayn has already visited Iraq and Yemen.

Criticizes 'Some Arab Countries'

EA2408105990 Khartoum SUNA in English 0907 GMT 24 Aug 90

[Text] Khartoum, 24 August (SUNA)—King Husayn of Jordan arrived here from the Republic of Yemen yesterday in the context of an Arab attempt to mobilize efforts to halt the escalating Gulf crisis. The Jordanian monarch was received at the airport by the chairman of the RCC [Revolution Command Council], Gen. 'Umar Hasan Ahmad al-Bashir, his deputy, RCC members, ministers, senior government officials, and some Arab and foreign diplomats accredited to here.

King Husayn, in an arrival statement, said he is not carrying a certain initiative towards the situation in the Gulf, but we are seeking a collective Arab resolution to the problem, he said. He criticised some Arab countries, which he did not name, of not having a clear position towards the current development in the Arab world.

Meanwhile, the RCC chairman has disclosed that the Sudanese and Jordanian viewpoints regarding the situation in the Gulf were identical.

300 Sudanese Return From Kuwait Via Jordan

EA2308112390 Khartoum SUNA in English 0947 GMT 22 Aug 90

[Excerpt] Khartoum, 22 August (SUNA)—Three hundred Sudanese returned home Tuesday [21 August] from Kuwait via Jordan, spearheading a group of 1,500 currently in Jordan. Sudan Airways, the national carrier, is currently engaged in transporting Sudanese trapped in Jordan. [passage omitted]

Evacuation Continues

EA2308142090 Omdurman Domestic Service in Arabic 0430 GMT 23 Aug 90

[Text] A responsible source involved in the operation to oversee the evacuation of the Sudanese returning from Kuwait via Jordan has announced that evacuation operations are going ahead as planned, and that Sudan Airways has agreed to schedule two trips daily to Jordan to transport the Sudanese from there. The source said the transportation operations will be completed on the day after tomorrow, stressing that the Jordanian authorities have agreed to schedule a ship to participate in transporting the returnees, and they have opened Aqabah airport to allow Sudanese planes to transport the citizens. The source pointed out that the minister for Sudanese expatriate affairs, who is at present in Amman, telephoned the operations office yesterday and clarified

that the Sudanese there are well and that the Jordanian Government is working to surmount the difficulties which are facing them.

Al-Bashir Returns From Arab States Tour

EA2308112190 Khartoum SUNA in English 0921 GMT 22 Aug 90

[Text] Khartoum, 22 August (SUNA)—Gen 'Umar al-Bashir, RCC [Revolution Command Council] chairman, said efforts would continue for an Arab settlement to the Gulf crisis. Gen al-Bashir, who returned home Tuesday [21 August] from a four Arab states tour, said Sudan's moves to contain the Gulf crisis were in line with its stance that condemnation would not help solving tme problem. Gen al-Bashir said Sudan was convinced that only an Arab solution could end the crisis in the Gulf. Others have goals which they was (?trying) to realise in the area, he said. He pointed out that these goals might be opposite to the Arab interests and aims. Gen. al-Bashir has toured Yemen, Algeria, Tunisia and Libya.

Gen. al-Bashir, in an arrival statement, said President Chadli Bendjedid of Algeria has shown readiness to play a role in drawing near Arab views for solving the Gulf crisis. He pointed out that while in Tunisa views had been identical with President Zine el Abidine Ben Ali of Tunisia and President Yasir 'Arafat on the necessity of containing the issue within Arab circles. Gen al-Bashir said he has also exchanged views with Col Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi of Libya and other senior officials in Tripoli, and that the outcome of these meetings would surface soon.

Meets Kuwaiti Ambassador

EA2308130490 Khartoum SUNA in English 1625 GMT 22 Aug 90

[Text] Khartoum, 22 August (SUNA)—Chairman of the Revolution Command Council Lt-Gen 'Umar al-Bashir met today with Kuwaiti ambassador to here 'Abdullah al-Surayyi. The meeting tackled in discussion the Gulf developments and other issues concerning the Arab world.

Meets Al-Barakah Chairman on Gulf

EA2308131790 Khartoum SUNA in English 1004 GMT 23 Aug 90

[Text] Khartoum, 23 August (SUNA)—Chairman of the Saudi-based al-Barakah Group Shaykh Salih 'Abdullah al-Kamil said he reviewed with the chairman of the Revolution Command Council Gen 'Umar al-Bashir, during a meeting with him yesterday, the situations of the Arab investments in Sudan in the light of Sudan's confirmation of supporting the legitimacy in [as received] Kuwait. This will give confidence to the Arab investor that Sudan respects the international charters, he said in press statements. He added that this civilised stance would lead to the future influx of Arab investment into Sudan.

RCC's Khalifah Chairs Meeting on Gulf Crisis

EA2308212990 Omdurman Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 23 Aug 90

[Text] The Peace and Foreign Affairs Committee held its fourth regular meeting at the Friendship Hall today under the chairmanship of the member of the RCC [Revolution Command Council] and chairman of the group, Colonel Muhammad al-Amin Khalifah.

Col. Khalifah briefed the group's members on Sudan's stance toward the explosive situation in the Gulf region. He referred to the efforts being exerted by the RCC chairman in reaching a solution to the Gulf crisis. In this regard, Col. Khalifah said, Gen. al-Bashir two days ago toured a number of Arab countries, and this was a follow-up to [words indistinct] another tour to other Arab countries in a bid to work out an Arab initiative for ending the crisis in the Gulf region.

Col. Khalifah, commenting on [word indistinct] summit now taking place in Rabat between the Libyan leader, Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi and the Chadian president, Hissein Habre, said the solving of the Chadian problem in a peaceful framework will help the prevailing of peace in the whole region.

The group listened to a report prepared by the preparation committee of the foreign ministers' conference of the Inter-Governmental Authority on Drought and Development [IGAAD] presented by Foreign Minister 'Ali Ahmad Sahlul. He said the conference will be held in Nairobi next August [as heard] to discuss the roots of the problems facing IGAAD's member states [word indistinct].

Interception of the Sudanese vessel by U.S. warships in the Gulf [of al-'Aqaba] recently was also discussed by the committee.

Tunisia

Ben Ali Receives Iraqi, Saudi Envoys

LD2308130190 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 23 Aug 90

[Text] President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali this morning at the Republican Palace in Carthage received Alwan Hamid al-Juburi [name as heard], Iraq's ambassador in Tunis.

President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali at noon today received Ibrahim Sa'd 'Ali Ibrahim, ambassador of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia in Tunis.

The two meetings were attended by Mohamed Jeri, minister, director of the Presidential Office.

Kuwait

Iraqi Troops Said To Surround Foreign Embassies

LD2408091790 Budapest Domestic Service in Hungarian 0300 GMT 24 Aug 90

[Text] I have just received a telex which says: According to an announcement today by the Swedish foreign minister, Iraqi soldiers have already surrounded three embassies in Kuwait, including the Hungarian representation. According to Sten Andersson, apart from the Hungarian mission, units of the occupying army surrounded the Norwegian and the British representations, and they are encircling the Swedish Embassy right now. According to Andersson, there has been no use of force so far.

[Paris AFP in English at 0950 GMT on 24 Aug 90 adds: "Several Western embassies in Kuwait have been surrounded by Iraqi troops, the Swedish Foreign Ministry said Friday. According to the ministry, Iraqi troops had taken up positions outside the British, Hungarian, Japanese and Norwegian embassies in Kuwait City.

"Iraq, which invaded Kuwait on August 2 and annexed the emirate six days later, has ordered all embassies in Kuwait to close down by Friday and move their diplomatic personnel to Baghdad."]

Sweden Not To Observe Closure Order

LD2408103290 Stockholm International Service in Swedish 0930 GMT 24 Aug 90

[Excerpt] The second convoy of foreigners from Kuwait has arrived in Baghdad. It includes only one Swedish citizen, namely, the wife of ambassador Ingolf Kiesow. Ambassador Kiesow himself is still in Kuwait, together with embassy first secretary (Lars-Goran Pahlsson), and both are at the present time at the residence of the ambassador. There are another 10 Swedes left in Kuwait. Sweden has decided not to observe the Iraqi order that all embassies in the area should be closed. The Iraqi deadline for the closure of foreign embassies is now nearing its expiry without either of the parties showing signs of wanting to give in. Iraq has demanded that most of the Western embassies be closed during the day. The embassies have been given different deadlines, and Sweden's deadline expires now at 1200 Swedish time. [passage omitted]

More Embassies Surrounded

LD2408104990 Stockholm Domestic Service in Swedish 1030 GMT 24 Aug 90

[Text] Iraqi troops are now reported to have surrounded the embassies of Sweden and six other countries in Kuwait. According to reports which the Swedish Foreign Ministry has received from Kuwait, apart from the Swedish embassy, also the embassies of Norway, Hungary, Britain, Japan, West Germany, and Romania are said to have been surrounded by Iraqi troops. There are no reports yet of the Iraqi troops having used any force. The Swedish ambassador to Kuwait, Ingolf Kiesow, left this morning the embassy office and he is now in his residence waiting for further developments together with (Lars-Goran Pahlsson), the No. 2 at the embassy.

Sweden Regrets Hindrance on Exits, 'Crime'

LD2308121190 Stockholm International Service in Swedish 0930 GMT 23 Aug 90

[Text] We are naturally very disappointed by the fact that the Swedes from Kuwait are not allowed to immediately return to Sweden, Foreign Minister Sten Andersson says in a comment. He adds that, from the Swedish side, it is seen as a very serious crime against international law and custom to deny a country's peaceful citizens from returning to their home country.

Resistance Fighters, Soldiers Ambush Iraqis

Vehicles Destroyed

AU2408105090 Rome ANSA in English 1009 GMT 24 Aug 90

[Excerpt] (ANSA) Rome Aug 24—[passage omitted] London—Kuwaiti resistance fighters have been ambushing Iraqi occupiers, backed by Kuwaiti soldiers who have slipped across the Saudi border, a British businessman said in London Thursday.

Michael Trew—an employee of the London international stock exchange overseas financial service in Kuwait—said he had seen an Iraqi armoured personnel carrier and jeep which had been ambushed and also a flatbed truck with several dead Iraqis lying near it. Trew claimed that there were up to 300 people involved in the resistance movement and that they have mortars and commercial explosives as well as small arms. Trew escaped from Kuwait into Saudi Arabia last week.

Colonel Captured

NC2208125490 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 22 Aug 90

[Text] The Kuwaiti resistance in the Kuwaiti area of Khitan has managed to burn three Iraqi tanks and blow up a vehicle carrying 80 Iraqi Popular Army members. The operation was carried out with hand grenades seized from the invading Iraqi troops. The Kuwaiti resistance captured an Iraqi staff colonel after killing the three soldiers accompanying him.

The Qatari paper AL-'ARAB has reported that the Egyptian workers who have joined the Kuwaiti national resistance declared the area of Khitan off limits to the invading Iraqi troops and warned Iraqi soldiers about entering the area.

Prime Minister Holds News Conference in Al-Ta'if

LD2308203890 Riyadh Television Service in Arabic 1830 GMT 23 Aug 90

[Text] His Excellency Shaykh Sa'ad al-'Abdallah al-Salim al-Sabah, Kuwait heir apparent and prime minister, said that the intensity of the Iraqi forces which had attacked Kuwait and the use of air, land, and sea weapons indicated clearly that the Iraqi regime had planned for this aggression a long time ago. He went on to say at a news conference in al-Ta'if today that: This sinful attack came 10 hours after my meeting with the Iraqi Vice-President 'Izzat Ibrahim in Jeddah. Iraq used 150,000 soldiers, warships, and various aircraft, in addition to missiles and various types of weapons in its attack.

He confirmed that the Baghdad regime had planned for this aggression a long time ago, despite the promises made by Saddam Husayn to the custodian of the two holy mosques, King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-Aziz, His Excellency Egyptian President Muhammad Husni Mubarak, His Majesty King Husayn, PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat and His Excellency Yemeni President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih. His Highness asked: Can one believe a man who had lied to the leaders of Arab countries, invaded Kuwait and massed his forces along the borders of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia in a provocative manner?

His highness the Kuwaiti heir apparent explained that the Iraqi forces rushed quickly towards the palace of his highness the amir, and hit the palace with artillery and tanks in order to eliminate legitimacy in Kuwait. He said that the occupation forces did not find supporters among the sons of Kuwait who support their occupation of Kuwait, thus they formed a false government, and when that step failed, they annexed Kuwait.

His highness spoke about the Arab efforts which were exerted in order to contain the crisis between Iraq and Kuwait and said: The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and Egypt have exerted a great effort in order to arrange a meeting between the Iraqi vice president and myself until this took place in Jeddah. I came to this meeting full of hope of finding a solution to all the outstanding problems. But the Iraq official came only to prove that he had attended the meeting, and not in order to find a formula and a solution.

His highness added: I understood from the tenor of the Iraqi vice president's statement that he did not have any power to discuss the issues put forward for discussion and we agreed to hold a meeting in Baghdad and others in Kuwait. However, the unexpected happened, a few hours later the Iraqi forces invaded the Kuwaiti territory and destroyed everything.

His Highness Shaykh Sa'd al-'Abdallah al-Salim al-Sabah praised the decision of the states which refused to close their embassies in Kuwait and their refusal to submit to the orders of the occupation forces. He described the arrest of nationals of foreign states and their detention as hostages by the Iraqi Government as being remote from the sense of responsibility and humanity.

His highness pointed out that there are three or four members of the al-Sabah family who are detained by the Iraqi authorities. He said that the detention of these cannot frighten us because they participate with their brothers in the defense of their homeland. His highness pointed out that Iran approved to implement the UN Security Council's resolution on imposing sanctions against Iraq.

Minister of State Denies Nation 'Part of Iraq'

Holds Prague News Conference

LD2208172790 Prague Domestic Service in Czech 1630 GMT 22 Aug 90

[Text] A news conference was held today at the Kuwaiti Embassy in Prague, attended by the ambassador and the Minister of State for Municipal Affairs Fahd 'Abdallah al-Hassawi, who conveyed the message from Shaykh al-Sabah. The Kuwaiti minister praised highly the attitude of the president, our government, and parliament toward the Iraqi annexation of Kuwait.

Asked by Czechoslovak Radio about the attitude of the Kuwaiti Government toward Saddam Husayn's pronouncement that Kuwait is, in fact, historically a part of Iraq, Mr. Minister said:

[Begin al-Hassawi recording in Arabic with superimposed Czech translation] Saddam Husayn's pronouncement is not based on truth. The two states were a part of the Ottoman empire. The treaties between the two countries were in force until recently. Iraq had its embassy in Kuwait. Baghdad's theory is very dangerous, because it says that any state, if it is stronger, is entitled to occupy other state. [end recording]

He also said that Kuwait has the right to ask anybody for help in reinstating its sovereignty. If the devil could be of help, we will get in touch with him, too—he said, literally.

Supports UN Resolution

LD2208124890 Prague CTK in English 1157 GMT 22 Aug 90

[Text] Prague August 22 (CTK)—Kuwait is for the adoption of a U.N. Security Council resolution on the use of military force to enforce the United Nations embargo against the Iraqi occupation, Kuwaiti minister of state for local administration, Fahd 'Abdallah al-Hassawi, told a press conference here today.

Asked by CTK whether Kuwait would accept military involvement of the United States and other countries outside the U.N., Mr. al-Hassawi said his people would "ally the devil" to free their country. He added, however,

that the United States only wished to assist the implementation of the U.N. embargo.

The minister confirmed Kuwait's embarrassment over the attitude taken by the Arab countries on the Iraqi aggression, and expressed "surprise" at Iran's position, in connection with Iraq's peace offer. Mr. al-Hassawi said he hoped that Jordan, Yemen, and other Arab countries would change their attitude in the interest of renewing Kuwait's sovereignty and territorial integrity.

The Kuwaiti government official also appreciated his reception by Czechoslovak President Vaclav Havel on Tuesday, whom he had brought a message from the emir of Kuwait. He thanked the government and hte people of Czechoslovakia, who—aware of the pain and suffering of the yoke of a double occupation—fully sided with Kuwait.

Government Source Rejects Iraqi Proposals

PM2308135690 Cairo AL-ANBA' in Arabic 21 Aug 90 p 1

[Text] Kuwait yesterday announced its total rejection of the Iraqi regime's latest attempts at deception and procrastination constituted by what the Baghdad regime calls Saddam Husayn's new initiative. An authoritative Kuwaiti Council of Ministers source said as follows:

1—The Iraqi regime has started to feel its international isolation. It has therefore occurred to it to promptly use the innocent foreigners working in Kuwait and Iraq as a means of putting pressure on the international community to lift the siege imposed on it. The objective is to free itself from the deadly isolation into which it drove itself when the oppressive regime embarked on a foolish action—the occupation of a sovereign fraternal state, the destruction of its infrastructure, and the violation of its legitimacy. The whole world has unanimously rejected that barbaric method of blackmail, which no civilized regime would use.

2—Saddam Husayn's statement indicated that the occupation of Kuwait is an Arab issue, forgetting—or, rather, pretending to forget—that when the Iraqi foreign minister distributed the memorandum containing the Iraqi accusations against Kuwait within the Arab League framework Kuwait, choosing the Arab solution, proposed the formation of an Arab committee to settle the outstanding issues between the two Arab states. The Iraqi Government rejected that proposal, however, claiming that it was a bilateral issue between Kuwait and Iraq.

The Jeddah Kuwait-Iraq meeting was held in response to the endeavors made by Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz and President Muhammad Husni Mubarak. But these attempts failed for reasons relating to the Iraqi delegation, which refused to discuss the outstanding issues between the two countries because it was not authorized to do so. It emphasized that it regarded the meeting as a "protocol" meeting. A few hours after the Kuwaiti delegation's return to Kuwait from Jeddah the Iraqi Army moved in in huge numbers to invade Kuwaiti territory, using various kinds of weapons. Then Iraqi troops perpetrated acts of murder, rape, and armed robbery. They also destroyed both public and private buildings. Iraq rejected all the resolutions adopted within the Arab League framework, which condemned the Iraqi invasion and demanded the Iraqi forces' immediate and unconditional withdrawal from the State of Kuwait to enable the legitimate authorities to resume their activities.

Now Saddam Husayn claims that the occupation of Kuwait and the violation of its sovereignty are an Arab matter to be resolved by the Arabs. How can this issue be resolved at the Arab level when Iraq insists on occupying Kuwait? How can it be resolved at the Arab level when Saddam Husayn rejects the clear and open Arab resolutions in that regard?

The Iraqi leadership is confused, and embarked on an aggressive action without examining its implications. If it really wants to resolve the issue at the Arab level and if it still has little concern for higher Arab interests, the only solution is for Saddam Husayn to immediately and unconditionally withdraw his invading forces from the State of Kuwait, leaving the country's affairs to its legitimate authorities—represented by His Highness Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Sabah, amir of the State of Kuwait, and its government headed by His Highness Shaykh Sa'd al-'Abdallah al-Salim al-Sabah, heir apparent and prime minister—for which the Kuwaiti people have emphasized, and continue to emphasize, their support and cohesion. They also emphasize their rejection of any form of foreign interference in, or tampering with, their country's internal affairs.

Therefore, while it totally rejects the substance of the Iraqi statement, the Council of Ministers regards it as another link in the chain of deception and procrastination characteristic of the Iraqi leadership. There is no other solution to the issue of Iraq's occupation of the State of Kuwait except to work resolutely and determinedly to implement the UN Security Council resolutions in this regard.

We pray God to rid the Arab and Islamic nation of the evils of that evil regime, which has committed innumerable unimaginable crimes against the Iraqi people, the Kuwaiti people, and indeed the Arab nation. God both hears and answers.

Paper Scorns Iraqi 'Messages of Backtracking'

PM2208160090 Cairo AL-ANBA' in Arabic 17 Aug 90 p 1

[Editorial: "Listen, Tariq 'Aziz"]

[Text] Iraqi Foreign Minister Tariq 'Aziz appealed to UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar to agree to ease the blockade imposed to prevent Iraq from exporting its oil, so that Iraq can provide the basic life essentials for the fraternal people of Iraq. From Tariq 'Aziz's request, it is clear that the Iraqi Government now

finds itself in the same hole it chose for its people. And although arrangements were made fairly well in advance—reports say that the Iraqi regime organized domestic affairs so as not to need to seek aid for five months at least—the Iraqi regime's calculations have, as usual, proved wrong and divorced from reality, science, and logic. On 22 September 1980 the Iraqi regime opened a military front with Iran. Then, five days after the war broke out, President Saddam Husayn announced he was ready to withdraw from Iranian territory and negotiate the future of relations. But he also announced on that day numerous conditions—first and foremost the restoration of Iraq's sovereignty over Shatt al-'Arab. This was in addition to the restoration of the Qasr-e Shirin, [Zayn al-Qaws], and [Sayf Sa'd]. And above all he laid down the condition that a pledge be made not to interfere in Iraq's internal affairs. And we must, of course, understand that when the Iraqi president insists on others' noninterference in his country's internal affairs, he actually abides by the same condition.

Having been confronted by 1 million widows, bereaved mothers, and orphans, he is now being confronted by the Iraqi people, whose life and economy he has destroyed over 10 years; he is now being confronted by history, and is trying to apologize and seek forgiveness and reconciliation; he is now making a tempting offer to Iran—an offer to organize a conspiracy to share the Arabian Gulf and plunder its wealth. He said in his message to Iranian President Hashemi-Rafsanjani: So, my dear friend, everything you wanted has been achieved. Saddam now speaks to Iran in language that is full of weakness and disgrace. And this after he fought Iran for 10 years and claimed that he achieved a victory not seen for centuries in Arab history. This is what Iraq's position has become at the end of the era of the general, the nation's knight, and God's gift to the Arabs, as he describe himself.

Tariq 'Aziz's message to Perez de Cuellar reflects the state of despair. He said: "Where can we secure food and medicine for our people?" But he seems to forget that this terrible question should have been addressed to the Iraqi regime itself before it embarked on its ugly crime and foolish action—that is, the invasion of Kuwait and the occupation of its territory—and before it rejected all the reconciliation and peace proposals put forward by noble Arab leaders, who sought to support Kuwait and the truth, rescue Saddam from his inevitable fate, and rescue Iraq from the calamities and dangers inflicted on it by Saddam Husayn.

Tariq 'Aziz should have remembered that in Cairo instead of speaking in a forward manner and playing the role of a peacock which knows that it will have its feathers be pulled out and be exposed before God, history, Arabs, the Iraqi people, and the valiant Iraqi Army. Tariz 'Aziz should have realized that the world would not allow the murderer to drink the blood of the murdered, would not reward the aggressor for his aggression, and would not grant him a financial reward for his seizure of an entire homeland. We say this and we know—and so does Tariq 'Aziz—that advice is no longer useful. And the messages of backtracking and apology will not be heeded by the world, because the voice of the just international force and the Arab force protecting its sisters, will rise above the heads of the murderers and will send them and their aggression to hell.

Al-Sabah Discusses Relations With 'Arafat

PM2108142290 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 20 Aug 90 p 4

[Interview with Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Sabah, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, by Qasiy Salih al-Darwish in Paris; date not given]

[Excerpts] [Al-Darwish] All indications are that the situation is moving toward a military confrontation which could be destructive for all. The prevailing mentality is a nihilist one that moves from one escalation to another. Do you believe there is still a last chance?

[Al-Sabah] Do you think that if there is a final chance we would ignore it? We have given the Arab leaderships, the Arab League, and the Islamic Conference Organization the opportunity. But the question should be: Who is responsible for the situation which we are in now? Is it not the person who created this situation and brought all the armies into the region? [passage omitted]

[Al-Darwish] There are reports that Kuwait rejected an offer concerning the marines' entry before the invasion.

[Al-Sabah] Not at all. That did not happen because we did not expect, nor did it occur to anyone, that Iraq—which Kuwait has supported for all these years—would do what it did. We have now discovered that Iraq has ambitions not only in Kuwait, but in many Arab areas.

[Al-Darwish] You said at the press conference that there is unanimity in condemning the invasion of Kuwait. But this unanimity has not prevented a division in Arab ranks. There is contradiction as well as differing views and positions. For example, how do you explain president Yasir 'Arafat's position?

[Al-Sabah] Please separate the Palestinian leadership from the Palestinian people. The Palestinian people have a special place in our hearts, and this will not change. As for the leadership, as I said, we will make a political assessment of all that has happened later.

[Al-Darwish] But is there any problem about something between Palestinian leader Yasir 'Arafat and the Kuwaiti leadership?

[Al-Sabah] In the name of God, there is nothing. He was with us three days before the invasion to assure us that Iraq would not embark on any military action. But the question, why he has changed, should be asked by the Palestinian people, that is, they should ask their leadership.

[Al-Darwish] Are you hurt by that position?

[Al-Sabah] Not personally. The entire Kuwaiti people are hurt by his position. We must be very frank: We are not hurt by the Palestinian people. They are in their country, Kuwait, and live among their Kuwaiti brothers.

[Al-Darwish] Are there contacts between you and King Husayn?

[Al-Sabah] There are no contacts apart from the recent Cairo meeting. Unfortunately, King Husayn has put himself in a dilemma which could... in fact, may God protect him. [passage omitted]

[Al-Darwish] With regard to your visit to France, and despite your appreciation of France's position, there is known to be a contrast between the French, British, and U.S. positions. Did you discuss this subject?

[Al-Sabah] In fact at my meeting today with the prime minister and the foreign minister I did not see the contradiction that I hear about from many people. I actually found a determination to restore Kuwaiti legitimacy and to secure the Iraqi forces' immediate withdrawal from Kuwait.

[Al-Darwish] If the situation continues as it is for a long time, have you discussed the possibility of finding a solution to the problem of Kuwait's frozen funds and investments?

[Al-Sabah] I believe that this action is in Kuwait's interests, not Iraq's.

[Al-Darwish] But the resistance leadership and diplomatic and informational activity need resources now.

[Al-Sabah] Thank God, resources are available and everything is in excellent order. [passage omitted]

Iran's 'Honorable' Stance on Invasion Hailed

PM2308114490 Cairo AL-ANBA' in Arabic 20 Aug 90 p 1

[Editorial: "Iran and a Proper Islamic Stance"]

[Text] Arab and international reactions are continuing in response to the Iraqi regime's invasion and occupation of Kuwaiti territory and the resulting negative aspects represented by the acts of murder, plunder, looting, and destruction, and terrifying the women and children of that peaceful country.

The most notable positive Islamic response to that barbaric invasion has been that of the Islamic Republic of Iran. Since the start of the invasion it has strongly expressed its clear and open position on it and demanded that the Iraqi regime withdraw from Kuwaiti territory to the borders that existed before the invasion started. It has also demanded the legitimate government's return to Kuwait.

Furthermore, the Islamic Republic of Iran has not withdrawn its demands concerning the invading Iraqi forces' withdrawal from Kuwaiti territory despite Saddam Husayn's initiative concerning the return to the 1975 agreement, which he unilaterally abolished in 1980. And that was a direct reason for the eruption of the destructive war which lasted eight years. It claimed many lives and resulted in devastation. Iran and Iraq are still suffering its effects. That war affected not only Iran and Iraq, but also the surrounding states and the entire world.

Saddam mistakenly thought that such an offer or initiative would change the position of the Islamic Republic of Iran. But that erroneous belief corrected when Hashemi-Rafsanjani, president of the Islamic Republic of Iran, said that an acceptance of Saddam Husayn's initiative concerning the return to the 1975 agreement is totally separate from Iran's demand that Iraq unconditionally withdraw from Kuwaiti territory and that the legitimate government be restored.

The position of the Islamic Republic of Iran should be praised because, despite the severe conditions which it experienced during the war, it has not deviated from or backtracked on what it believed in before, namely, that the principles of the magnanimous Islamic Shari'ah totally reject the occupation of others' territory by force. This, in the knowledge that the aggressor is the same one who launched the war against the Islamic Republic of Iran after abrogating the 1975 agreement to which he was a party.

At this critical time for the nation history records Iran's honorable position on the Iraqi invasion of Kuwaiti territory. The Islamic Republic of Iran has risen above all events, the wounds of the past, and the negative effects on its relations with other states. It has continued to adhere to the magnanimous Islamic principles which it has advocated and continues to advocate. It has totally rejected all justifications for that terrorist invasion.

Reportage on Finance Minister's Visit to Bonn

WA2408154090

For reportage on the visit by Finance Minister Shaykh Ali al-Khalifa al-Sabah to Bonn, including reports on his talks with State Minister Helmut Schaefer, please see the FRG section of the 24 August West Europe DAILY REPORT and subsequent issues.

Qatar

Pakistani Foreign Minister Arrives 23 Aug

NC2308180590 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1650 GMT 23 Aug 90

[Text] Doha, 23 Aug (WAKH)—Pakistani Foreign Minister Sahabzaha Yaqub Khan arrived in Doha this evening on a two-day visit to the State of Qatar as part of a tour of a number of countries in the region. He was received at Doha international airport by Qatari Foreign Minister Mubarak Bin-'Ali al-Khatir and [words indistinct].

Saudi Arabia

Government Declares Iraqi Decisions Void

LD2508200290 Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 23 Aug 90

[Text] In order to expose the Iraqi Government's announcement, through its foreign ministry, that diplomatic missions in Kuwait City no longer have any official duties with the Baghdad-based Iraqi Government, this following what it calls the merger-unity between Iraq and Kuwait, as from 4 Safar 1411 Hegira, corresponding to 24 August 1990, the following statement has been made:

The Government of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia wishes to announce:

Proceeding from the Arab League Council's resolutions, which were adopted at its emergency meeting in Cairo on 11 Muharram 1411 Hegira, corresponding to 2 August 1990, the first clause of which rejected the consequences resulting from the Iraqi occupation of Kuwait and any subsequent effect, a decision which was supported by the 19th ICO [Islamic Conference Organization] foreign ministerial conference;

Proceeding from the UN Security Council Resolution 662 of 1990, the first clause of which asserted that Iraq's annexation of Kuwait in any form and under any pretext is illegal, null and void;

Proceeding from the resolutions of the emergency Arab summit conference, held in Cairo on 19 Muharram 1411 Hegira, corresponding to 10 August 1990, particularly the following binding paragraphs: Paragraph 1: Affirming the need to adhere to UN Security Council Resolution 660 of 2 August 1990, Resolution 661 of 6 August 1990, and Resolution 662 of 9 August 1990, which were an expression of international legitimacy. Clause three: Condemning the Iraqi aggression against fraternal Kuwait, not recognizing Iraq's decision to annex Kuwait or any subsequent effects resulting from the Iraqi Forces' invasion of Kuwaiti territory, calling on Iraq to withdraw its forces immediately therefrom and returning it to the status quo existing before 1 August 1990. Paragraph four: Affirming Kuwait's sovereignty, independence, and safety given its status as a member state of the Arab League and the United Nations and the need to support the legitimate regime in whatever decision it sees as necessary to liberate its territory and regain its sovereignty;

Therefore, the Government of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, proceeding from its total commitment and full adherence to the Arab League, the ICO and the UN Charters, affirms its decision to consider all measures, regulations, and conduct resulting and derived from Iraq's occupation of the State of Kuwait void, like the occupation itself. Furthermore it affirms that its recognition of the legitimate Government of Kuwait stands, and that diplomatic relations between the two governments will continue at bilateral and international level and that the ambassador of the fraternal State of Kuwait will continue to perform his diplomatic duties in accordance with such a direction.

Pakistani Minister Meets With Foreign Minister

LD2308141790 Riyadh Television Service in Arabic 1400 GMT 23 Aug 90

[Text] Foreign Minister His Royal Highness Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal had a meeting today at the Palace of Conferences in Jeddah with Pakistani Foreign Minister Sahabzada Yaqub Khan and an accompanying delegation. The two sides discussed bilateral relations and the current situation in the Gulf region during the meeting. The two foreign ministers reviewed the efforts made to establish peace in the region and to protect the safety of its peoples.

Meets With King Fahd

LD2308152690 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1445 GMT 23 Aug 90

[Text] Jeddah, 23 Aug (SPA)—King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Sa'ud, the custodian of the two holy mosques, today at his office in Al-Salam Palace received Pakistani Foreign Minister Sahabzada Yaqub Khan and the delegation accompanying him. The meeting was attended by His Royal Highness Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal, foreign minister, and the ambassador of Pakistan to the Kingdom, Muhammad Khan Waliyullah Khishqi [name as received].

Recieves Message

LD2308123790 Riyadh Television Service in Arabic 1100 GMT 23 Aug 90

[Excerpt] The custodian of the two holy mosques, King Fahd Bin 'Abd al-'Aziz al-Sa'ud, has sent a message to Pakistani President His Excellency Ghulam Ishaq Khan. The message was delivered by the Kingdom's ambassador to Pakistan, Yusif Mutabaqani, when he was received by the Pakistani president yesterday in Islamabad. During the meeting President Ghulam Ishaq Khan reaffirmed the support of the people and government of Pakistan to the kingdom in its just stand to defend its territories and safeguard the region's security and stability. [passage omitted]

Leaves 23 Aug

LD2308160190 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1545 GMT 23 Aug 90

[Excerpt] Pakistani Foreign Minister Sahabzada Yaqub Khan left Jeddah this afternoon following a visit to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, during which he was received by the custodian of the two holy mosques, King Fahd Bin 'Abd al-'Aziz. He also conferred with His Royal Highness Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal, the minister of foreign affairs. [passage omitted]

Defense Minister on Presence of Foreign Troops

LD2108185790 Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 21 Aug 90

[Text] Answering an SPA [Saudi Press Agency] question on current developments in the Arabian Gulf region, His Royal Highness Prince Sultan Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, second deputy prime minister, defense and aviation minister, and inspector general, made the following statement:

The regrettable events recently witnessed in the Arabian Gulf region have attracted the attention of Arab, Islamic, and international public opinion since the Iraqi leadership launched the most horrendous aggression known by the Arab nation against a sister Arab country, which had made numerous contributions in the service of Arab, Islamic, and international issues, and perpetrated the shameful practices to which it has subjected the secure and peaceful Kuwaiti peopie. The Iraqi leadership, not satisfied with that, proceeded to mass its forces in combat formations near the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, thus posing a grave threat not only to the safety and security of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and its sister Arab states in the Gulf, but also to international peace and security.

In response to these regrettable developments, it was inevitable that the government of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia would exercise its legitimate right to defend its homeland and citizens and to protect the vital and economic components of this proud and generous country—a right which is stipulated by the tolerant Islamic Shari'a, guaranteed by the United Nations Charter in Article 51, contained in the Arab League Charter in Article 6 and the Treaty on Joint Arab Defense in Article 2, and endorsed by the extraordinary Arab summit in Cairo in its resolution issued on 19 Muharram 1411.

Brotherly Arab and Islamic countries and other friendly countries have responded to the call made by the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia for armed forces to be dispatched to support the Saudi Armed Forces in their sacred duty. These brother and friendly forces came on the basis of a request by the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and in accordance with clear fundamental principles announced by the government of the custodian of the two holy mosques, King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz al Sa'ud. They are here to work under Saudi command to carry out a purely defensive task, and not with the aim of attacking or threatening anyone. These forces will leave the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia as soon as the government of the custodian of the two holy mosques asks them to do so.

The presence of these brotherly and friendly forces in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia on a temporary basis was dictated by the Iraqi threats to which the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and its sisterly Arab Gulf countries are being subjected. Their task will end when the reasons for their coming end.

While thanking all the brotherly Arab and Islamic countries and the friendly countries that have stood by the government and people of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia in these extremely serious circumstances, having placed their armed forces next to the Saudi Armed Forces to defend this homeland and its citizens, protect this country, and safeguard its vital and economic constituents, I beg God to save this pure country from the plotting of aggressors and the evil of the envious, and to strengthen us with his assistance and support so that peace will return, security will spread, and amity will prevail in this region.

King Fahd Sends Message to Djibouti Premier

LD2308201190 Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 23 Aug 90

[Excerpt] The custodian of the two holy mosques, King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-Aziz Al Sa'ud—may God safeguard him—has sent a verbal message to his excellency the prime minister of Djibouti, Gourad Hamadou Barkat, concerning current conditions in the region and the Iraqi invasion of sister Kuwait. It was delivered by Foreign Ministry Under-Secretary 'Abd-al-Aziz al-Thunayyan, when his excellency the prime minister of Djibouti received him today. The prime minister of Djibouti expressed his country's appreciation of the efforts being exerted by the custodian of the two holy mosques in the service of the Arab and Islamic nations. His excellency reiterated his country's support for all the defensive measures taken by the kingdom to protect its territories against any external aggression in accordance with the resolutions of the extraordinary Arab summit. He also reiterated Djibouti's condemnation of Iraq's occupation of Kuwait and called for the return of the legitimate government led by his highness the Amir of Kuwait. [passage omitted]

King Fahd Meets With 'Arafat Adviser

LD2308182790 Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 23 Aug 90

[Text] The custodian of the two holy mosques King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-Aziz al-Sa'ud—may God protect him—today received at his office in the al-Salam Palace Mr. Hani al-Hasan, member of the central committee of the Fatah movement and Mr. Yasir 'Arafat's political adviser. The meeting was attended by His Excellency ali al-Sha'ir, minister of information; and Mr. Subhi Abu Karsh, member of the central committee of the Fatah movement and the state of Palestine's ambassador to the kingdom.

King Fahd Receives UAE President's Message

LD2308170290 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1646 GMT 23 Aug 90

[Excerpt] Jeddah, 23 Aug, SPA—The custodian of the two holy mosques, King Fahd bin-'Abd-al-Aziz al Sa'ud, has received a message from His Highness Shaykh Zayid Bin-Sultan Al Nuhayyan, president of the United Arab Emirates [UAE].

The message was conveyed to the custodian of the two holy mosques by UAE Minister of State for Foreign Affairs, Rashid 'Abdallah al- Nu'aymi, when King Fahd received him at al-Salam palace today.

The audience was attended by His Royal Highness Prince Sa'ud al- Faysal, minister of foreign affairs, and His Excellency minister of state and Cabinet member, Muhammad Ibrahim Mas'ud. [passage omitted].

Commentary Urges Saudis To Overthrow King Fahd

JN2308121790 (Clandestine) Holy Mecca Radio in Arabic 1132 GMT 23 Aug 90

[Text] Brothers in Najd and Hejaz [Saudi Arabia]: Greetings of Arabism and Islam. We Pray to God Almighty to remove the great catastrophe brought upon you by criminal Fahd when he permitted the American fleets, planes, and forces to desecrate the land of Najd and Hejaz, the land of Mecca and al-Madinah, in order to carry out the plot which was hatched by U.S. and Zionist circles to control the vast oil wealth in the Arab land and so that the United States would be power number one in the world in arms and material and economic strength, and to also threaten fraternal Iraq and plot against it and its heroic leadership represented by its leader and symbol Saddam Husayn. This is because Saddam Husayn told Israel: If you attack Iraq, I will burn half of Israel.

Just because President Saddam said that Jerusalem must be liberated, King Fahd began plotting against Iraq and the leader of Iraq just as his predecessors plotted before that against 'Abd al- Nasir.

The link between Zionism, the United States, and Fahd is rather strange. Fahd has turned into a coordinator of this hideous plot against the Arab nation and Iraq. The Muslims in Najd and Hejaz are called upon today to revolt and to liberate themselves. We call upon the heroic Saudi forces, grandsons of 'Adnan and Qahtan [ancestors of northern and southern Arabs] to revolt against traitor King Fahd, to expel him from the throne, and to choose another member of the [Saudi] family, which we cannot blame entirely and accuse it of ill intent, to replace him and to save what he can of Arab sanctities, honor, and entity in Najd and Hejaz.

Today, you will hear a voice recording of traitor Fahd telling one of the Arabs things which contain plotting against Iraq and President Saddam Husayn. Yet, he used to always say that President Saddam Husayn was his beloved friend. Where is the love, friendship, and Arab chilvary? How can we reconcile between Fahd's words and deeds, what he harbors and what he declares? How strange.

Criminal Fahd must be removed immediately from the custodianship throne. He no longer deserves to be called custodian of the two holy mosques because custodianship does not permit him under any conditions to desecrate the land of Mecca and al-Madinah with the boots of the foreigners. He assumes a big responsibility before Muslims and Arabs for his hideous act.

Saudi Arabia belongs to its people. It does not belong to the Saudi family. The name must be corrected by calling people Najdite or Hejazite. The people must be named after their place of origin, not by the Saudi family name. We do not want to go into details here. In brief, what we are saying is that Fahd is a traitor and a criminal and he must be removed. The American forces must leave the land of the Arabs. Aggression against Iraq is rejected by the Shari'a and the law. Kuwait is an indivisible part of the land of Iraq forever.

Radio Says Fahd Opened Saudi Arabia to Zionists

JN2308121190 (Clandestine) Holy Mecca Radio in Arabic 1015 GMT 23 Aug 90

[Text] O Arabs, O Muslims: A Zionist settler interviewed by HA'ARETZ after the U.S. invasion forces' arrival in Najd and Hejaz [Saudi Arabia] said: Now nobody can say I am crazy if I cry out and say: Yes to Greater Israel.

So the Zionist dream has begun to materialize at the hands of Fahd, who has opened the gates of the holy land before the Americans, the enemies of Islam, to be infiltrated by Rabbis, Mosad officers, intelligence elements, and Zionist pilots.

Furthermore, and as an expression of the enemy Zionists' strong urge to fulfill the dream of Greater Israel, former war minister Sharon is urging the U.S. Administration to direct a knockout blow to Iraq. Sharon says this crisis must not end without striking Iraq. Thus, Sharon exposes Fahd and affirms to the whole world that the forces brought by Fahd from U.S. gutters did not come to defend his regime against a potential Iraqi aggression, as he claims, but to attack Arabs and Muslims in Iraq and to fulfill the Zionist entity's dream to establish Greater Israel.

United Arab Emirates

'Arafat Accused of Fomenting 'Regional Apostasy'

JN2108091290 Al-Shariqah AL-KHALIJ in Arabic 18 Aug 90 p 1

[Article by Dr. Ahmad al-Rab'i: "Some Shame"]

[Text] Finally, 'Arafat, you have been caught in the snare. You have spent long years trying to outsmart everybody and walk on all the intertwined tightropes of Arab politics, the way amateur circus players do, thinking that you are more clever than everyone else. In the end, however, you have chosen the position which you should have chosen a long time ago.

You have always advocated the policy of noninterference in the internal affairs of Arab countries, and always talked about the dimensions of the Palestine question and the impact of intra-Arab conflicts on it. This time,

however, you have departed—willfully and knowingly—from this tedious, monotonous approach.

Your problem is that you cannot distinguish between major historical junctures and minor tactics. Therefore, you have thought about the occupation of Kuwait in terms of customary tactics. Thus, we and the Palestinian people were forced to pay the price of this position.

You should know about the detrimental notions you have driven into the minds of our citizens, and the regional apostasy you have stirred up among them. You should know that our people's relationship with Palestine is not that of oilmen who pay money in exchange for the blood the Palestinians are paying. For blood cannot be bought or sold.

Among the Kuwaitis, 'Arafat, there are strugglers who fought in the ranks of the Palestinian revolution, and shared bread with the sons of Palestine in hard times. The Kuwaitis, 'Arafat—and you know this quite well—used to supply the revolutionaries of Palestine with arms before there was oil or money. In Kuwait, there are the most active committees which work for the intifadah and the children of the stones—the hope of the nation and the symbol of its greatness.

Your stand, 'Arafat, regarding the events in Kuwait, will not prompt us to commit a pan-Arab sin, and to hold a grudge against the sons of our Palestinian people. However, you—the lonesome leader of the sole legitimate representative—will discover your real caliber which you should have recognized a long time ago.

There is 400,000 Palestinians among us in Kuwait, whom, through your stand on the occupation of Kuwait, you have tried to incite and spur. You have also tried to incite and goad the Kuwaitis. You have tried to spread sedition, which is asleep. God damn him who stirs up seditions.

In olden days, a philosopher said that shame is a human emotion; we hope, therefore, that you will demonstrate some, if you have time.

Yemen

King Husayn, Salih Hold Private Talk 23 Aug

JN2308165490 Amman PETRA-JNA in Arabic 1445 GMT 23 Aug 90

[Text] Sanaa, 23 Aug (PETRA)—His Majesty King Husayn and His Excellency President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih held a private talk at the presidential palace in Sanaa shortly after his majesty's arrival in the Yemeni capital this afternoon.

It was followed by an expanded meeting attended by Prime Minister Mudar Badran, Royal Court Chief al-Sharif Zayd Bin-Shakir, and 'Adnan Abu-'Awdah, his majesty's political adviser. Yemen was represented by Presidential Council members 'Abd-al-Karim al-'Arashi, 'Abd-al-'Aziz 'Abd-al-Ghani, Mujahid Abu-Shawarib, who is the deputy prime minister for internal affairs, and Foreign Minister Dr. 'Abd-al-Karim al-Iryani.

Further on Talks

JN2308183190 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 23 Aug 90

[Excerpts] His Majesty King Husayn and His Excellency President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih held a private meeting at the presidential palace in Sanaa, upon his majesty's arrival in the Yemeni capital this afternoon. [passage omitted]

They discussed latest developments in the Gulf crisis and explored ways to defuse the confrontation within an Arab context so as to save the region from a military explosion that might imperil Middle East stability and security and threaten the collapse of world peace. His Majesty King Husayn and His Excellency President Salih agreed that the heavy foreign military buildup in the Peninsula and the Gulf puts the whole region at risk. Arabs must therefore move promptly and Arab and international efforts must combine to contain the crisis and find a peaceful way out to spare the region and the world a potential catastrophe. [passage omitted]

Al-Bid, Visiting PFLP Group Discuss Crisis

JN2308115690 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 22 Aug 90

[Text] Brother 'Ali Salim al-Bid, deputy chairman of the Presidential Council, has received the delegation of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine [PFLP] led by brother 'Abd-al-Rahim Malluh, member of the front's political bureau, who delivered a letter from PFLP Secretary General George Habash to his brother 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, chairman of the Presidential Council. The letter deals with the situation in the Arab region.

The two sides reviewed the difficult and complicated phase which the region is passing through, which is fraught with immense dangers threatening all the achievements that have been realized throughout the history of our nation's struggle and aiming to liquidate its national and pan-Arab forces and causes especially the Palestinian cause.

The Presidential Council's deputy chairman affirmed that the Yemeni leadership will continue its efforts to find a solution to the current crisis within the Arab context. He noted that the crisis in the region requires, now more than ever before, efforts to back the intifadah in the occupied Palestinian Arab territory. This backing is one of the main methods to foil the aggressive plots and schemes facing the Arab nation in general and the Palestinian Arab people in particular.

The meeting was attended by brother Abu-al-'Izz, the PFLP representative in Yemen.

Al-Bid Discusses Gulf Crisis With USSR Envoy

JN2308064390 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 22 Aug 90

[Text] Brother 'Ali Salim al-Bid, vice chairman of the Presidential Council, met at the Republican Palace at noon today with Veniamin Popov, ambassador of the USSR in Sanaa. During the meeting, they discussed bilateral relations and developments of the situation in the Gulf region. The vice chairman expressed the Republic of Yemen's satisfaction with the level of relations with the Soviet Union, affirming the importance of working to promote and bolster these relations on the basis of the Treaty of Friendship and Cooperation between the two countries and in the service of the joint interests and mutual benefit of the two friendly peoples of Yemen and the Soviet Union.

Proceeding from the pan-Arab policy of the Republic of Yemen and from its concern about the Arab nation's security and peace and security withiin the region, the vice chairman of the Presidential Council affirmed the importance of exerting efforts to contain the current crisis in the Gulf region and to avert the dangers of military escalation as a result of foreign intervention and to work to find a peaceful settlement of the crisis within the Arab framework.

The meeting was attended by Deputy Foreign Minister Brother Shayi' Muhsin Muhammad.

Salih, Sudan's Al-Bashir Discuss Regional Events

JN1808190190 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 18 Aug 90

[Excerpt] Brothers Lieutenant General 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, chairman of the Presidential Council, and Lieutenant General 'Umar Hasan al-Bashir, chairman of the National Salvation Revolution Command Council in fraternal Sudan, have held a round of talks during which they consulted and exchanged views on current developments and on the critical conditions in the Arab region in light of the threats and dangers the foreign military presence entails. Brother Ali Salim al-Bid, vice chairman of the Presidential Council, attended the talks.

The two men stressed the need to coordinate their countries' positions to contain and resolve the crisis peacefully, within the Arab context, to spare the Arab region the disaster of the expected military confrontation and to protect Arab national security from all dangers stemming from the foreign military presence and the intensive massing of foreign fleets in the Arab region.

The meeting was attended by brothers 'Abd-al-Karim al-'Arashi, Salim Salih Muhammad, and 'Abd-al-'Aziz 'Abd-al-Ghani, Presidential Council members; Dr. Yasin Sa'id Nu'man, Council of Representatives speaker; Haydar Abu-Bakr al-'Attas, prime minister; and Dr. Hasan Makki, first deputy prime minister.

For Sudan, the meeting was attended by brother Yusuf Sa'id, the Sudanese president's political adviser.

Brother Lt. Gen. 'Umar Hasan al-Bashir arrived in Sanaa at noon today on a visit to our country to discuss with brother Lt. Gen. 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih the latest developments on the Arab arena and issues of mutual interest to the two fraternal countries. [passage omitted]

Hold Second Session of Talks

JN1908140590 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 0430 GMT 19 Aug 90

[Excerpt] Brother Presidential Council Chairman Lieutenant General 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih and Lieutenant General 'Umar Hasan Ahmad al-Bashir [chairman of the Sudanese National Salvation Revolution Command Council] held a second round of talks in Sanaa last night. Presidential Council Vice Chairman 'Ali Salim al-Bid, Presidential Council members, the prime minister, the first deputy prime minister, the information adviser to the Sudanese president, and the Sudanese ambassador in Sanaa attended the talks.

The two men continued to discuss the latest developments and ways to contain and resolve the crisis peacefully to spare the region the dangers of foreign intervention. [passage omitted]

President Departs

JN1908140990 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 19 Aug 90

[Excerpt] Brothers Lieutenant General 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, Presidential Council chairman, and Lieutenant General 'Umar Hasan al-Bashir, chairman of the National Salvation Revolution Command Council [NSRCC] of Sudan, met this morning in Sanaa. The meeting was attended by brother 'Ali Salim al-Bid, Presidential Council vice chairman; the Presidential Council members; the prime minister; the first deputy prime minister; and Brother Yusuf Sa'id, political adviser to the Sudanese president.

During the meeting, they completed consultations to coordinate the efforts of the two fraternal countries, as well as Arab efforts, to (?contain) the crisis in the Arabian Gulf and resolve it peacefully to spare the region the dangers of foreign (?intervention).

Brother Lt. Gen. 'Umar Hasan al-Bashir and his delegation left Sanaa at noon today. [passage omitted]

Salih Receives Message From PRC

JN1808185490 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 18 Aug 90

[Text] Brother Lieutenant General 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, Presidential Council chairman, and brother Ali Salim al-Bid, Presidential Council vice chairman, today received Lin Zhen, PRC ambassador in Sanaa, who conveyed to the brother president a message from PRC

leaders dealing with current developments in the region and the PRC's stand on these developments.

Talk on U.S. 'Arrogance,' King Husayn's Response

JN1808194690 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 1652 GMT 18 Aug 90

["Talk of The People;" intercepted in progress]

[Text] ....and offered him money and support in return for helping to starve the children of Iraq. However, King Husayn has given the well-known U.S. murmur its just deserts and responded in a manner that will give it a lesson in Arab values and genuine self-respect, one that does not stab a brother in the back, plot against him in the dark, sell values and principles for dollars, or buy power at the expense of dignity. President George Bush then brandished his threats, which only the dwarfish agents listen to, and said that unless Jordan colluded against sisterly Iraq, he would order the pirates of his frigates in Arab waters to siege the port of al-'Aqabah. Yet he did not manage to abase Jordan's dignity, courage, and adherence to its right to respond to aggression.

From all of this, the average Arab individual does not only notice the American arrogance, but also his concern to launch a crusade against Arabs to serve the Zionist scheme, whose intentions and maps brother Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] revealed a few months ago.

The average Arab individual is also seeing daily more evidence of the fact that the United States is interfering militarily in Arab lands and waters, desecrated by the feet of the troops of crusading hatred, in order to occupy the Arab positions sought in imperialist and Zionist schemes. He also sees evidence that the United States wants to divide and fragment Arab and Islamic ranks and inflame the fire of sedition within those ranks so as to implement its exposed scheme in accordance with planned steps.

These are the intentions of the United States, which relies on Israel and its sisters. However, the cohesion between the leaders and masses of the Arab and Islamic nation will constitute the shield protecting the sacred places. Every zealous, capable fighter will join every leader who zealously guards dignity, independence, and sacred places.

The average Arab individual will reject these foreign interventions and observe the right of the sons of the Arab house to resolve their own problems.

Saddam Allows British Teenager To Leave

JN2308214290 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 2130 GMT 23 Aug 90

[Text] President leader Saddam Husayn has ordered that Alex Barnett, a 15-year-old British national, be sent back [tasfir] to his country. This was after his excellency learned that he is alone among the British families, that his family is not with him.

Saddam Visits British Families 23 Aug

JN2308182790 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 23 Aug 90

[Recording of remarks exchanged between President Saddam Husayn and "a number of British families hosted by Iraqi people at vital Iraqi installations" on 23 August with superimposed English translation; translated from the English]

[Text] [Husayn] Good morning. We've come to see how you are doing. You are British? All of you?

[Answer] Yes. We are a British family.

[Husayn] When did you come here?

[Answer] For myself, four days.

[Husayn] Are all your needs, whatever you require available?

[No monitorable answer]

[Husayn] Does Stewart get his milk?

[Answer] Yes.

[Husayn] Are you getting your milk, Stewart?

[Answer] With corn flakes, too.

[Husayn] I do not think all the Iraqi kids can get corn flakes now. Do you have any younger one?

[Answer] I have another [words indistinct] fourteen.

[Husayn] Do you have enough place for exercise?

[Answer] [words indistinct] volleyball.

[Husayn] Go on say whatever you like. You are playing volleyball.

[Answer] Yes.

[Husayn] When.

[Answer] Yesterday.

[Husayn] Do you have a team? Iraqi players? Do you play with Iraqis?

[Answer] Yes.

[Husayn] Do you have any Iraqi families here?

[Answer] No.

[Husayn] Do you not play anything, do you not play games, Stewart.

[Answer] Football.

[Husayn] And the ladies, how are you passing time?

[No monitorable answer]

[Husayn] I am sure you prefer to be in Britain now. I am an Iraqi and I realize that if were in your shoes I would rather be in Iraq, my country. But sometimes one is forced to face situations which are not of his own choice. Your presence here and in other places is meant to prevent the scourge of war, to avoid the war. In Arabic, we say preventing danger. There is a semantic in English [word indistinct] problem here. We in our communique used the dar' in Arabic, which means to put away or to prevent or to avoid the scourge of war or the danger of war. We use the word dar', which means in Arabic to prevent. But when we used this word, Western media used [words indistinct] the pronunciation of the word dar' into dar' [final sound is 'ayn letter in Arabic], which means shield. And they thought that we were using people as a shield rather than as a dar', which we meant, which means to prevent war. So there was perhaps deliberate misinterpretation or inadvertent misinterpretation of the...[Saddam rephrases] our wording of the communique.

[Husayn] Stewart, will, I am sure, be happy to have as part of life or his personal history that he played a role in maintaining peace. So when he, along with his friends and along with those present, here have played a role in preventing war, then they will be heroes of peace. I am sure that you all have your own journals, your own diaries, perhaps, and will jot down whatever you have as feelings or as recollections or as impressions of the day. And in any case your presence now and in this sort of atmosphere is not a source of pleasure to us. It does not make us happy. What would make us happy would be to see you back in your countries or to see roaming the streets of Baghdad in the normal way, as you used to do. So please forgive us because we, like you, have our own children, like Stewart, and like Ian. And we also have our own women like you and have our own families. And we would know how you feel, but we are trying to prevent a war from happening. And we hope that your presence as guests here is not going to be for too long. Now I am prepared to listen to whatever you would want to say and to receive whatever questions you may have. And would like you see you as comfortable as you want to be in a democratic atmosphere, because we in fact here are more democratic than some quarters which claim for themselves to be, because in the past few days I have come across articles published in Western newspapers, so-called democratic newspapers, in which the writers urge the President to actually strike at Iraq and actually use force against Iraq and Baghdad despite the fact of your presence here. And this, in fact is a sign of the falsehood of this so-called democracy or they are concerned, so-called concerned, for man or for human life. [sentence as heard] As they talk about man and human life and humanitarian issues and they [word indistinct] urged

President Bush to strike despite your presence. We are truly concerned about your welfare and wellbeing here. We would want you to be safe and to go back to your country. And this is not meant to be a propagandist (?tool). I am not speaking for propaganda purposes, but it is truly a humanitarian concern that we want you to be safe. It is our religion, it is our duty, as both Iraqis, as Arabs, and as human beings that we would want you to be safe. We would like you to go back to your country, but I might say not because we are finding you hospitality, or your presence as guests here, heavy on us. On the contrary, we only want you to have your freedom and go back to your country.

[Unidentified speaker] [Words indistinct] We appreciate that you have come in person, since nobody else had been able to answer questions.

[Husayn] I am here to answer all your questions.

[Unidentified speaker] You have school-going children here, right here. [words indistinct] myself for a few times, who will begin in about in a week time on the first of September, and some of them [words indistinct] to begin, and that itself is [words indistinct].

[Husayn] As for schoolchildren, we hope that your presence here is not going to be long. But despite that, if by the time schooling begins and you are still here in Iraq, we are going to exert unusual efforts to make sure that the children are not deprived of their school years. And we will send to you experts from our Ministry of Education to see the curricula and the levels of schooling so that everything that we can prepare so that the children will not lose the opportunity. All religions urge us to learn more and more, and to continue our learning. And in our religion, the first time God Almighty addressed the prophet Muhammad—blessings be upon his soul—through Gabriel, God said to Muhammad: Read, and that was the first instruction. So, reading and learning is the fundamental thing in the life of man, and we know what it means. One would have wished that the kind of circumstances could have been reversed. We would like to have the coincidence [as heard], but to see you in a different kind of situation. But it has happened, and we are faced with the outcome of actions, some of which have come by chance or coincidence, and some of which have come actually by deliberate (?scheme). But we, for our part, we shall try to treat you in the same way as we treat Iraqis, the people of Iraq, because you are not hostages. We want nothing from Britain or the United States. We want nothing from them. They owe us nothing. We owe them nothing. The question should be addressed to them: What had Iraq taken away from you which has made you and bring your forces threatening Iraq and the land and territory of God and the Muslims? What has Iraq done to deserve so? We have taken nothing from London or from any other English cities. We have taken nothing away from the United States.

We have our viewpoint, in any case the Arab nation is one nation, a single nation. British colonialism cut away the Arab nation. All that happened was the rich part, called Kuwait, had now come back to its motherland, the same as this little kid, which [words indistinct] may be taken away and then brought back to his mother. You are eager now to be in England, that I know, I am sure. If a segment or a part of England was to be cut away from the country, wouldn't this be bad, wouldn't you find it harmful. I am sure you would deplore this and you would not allow anybody to cut away any part of England. The same thing for the Iraqis. The Iraqis have decided that this part that has been cut away for a while from its motherland should come back to its motherland, same as this infant should come back to its mother. We have taken nothing from England or from the United States. We have threatened none of them. We have said nothing about cutting away oil supplies to them. This is not our policy to cut off oil supplies. So, we do not want war despite the fact that you would know whoever is on his land fighting in defense of his land would be able to destroy any aggression [words indistinct] We are in a position to destroy any aggression. If in your position in England, a force came to cut away or to occupy part of it, you would be in a position to destroy this force in defense of your honor, national honor and sense of your own future. Same thing, same feelings, same situation is now about here. We do not want war to come about despite the fact that we know that we can smash and crush any aggression that may [words indistinct]. So the question that has to be posed by all of us to Mrs. Thatcher and Mr. Bush: What had Iraq taken away from them which has made them bring their armed forces to the region threatening the people of the area, threatening Iraq with an attack and destruction. What has Iraq done against them. Had Iraq taken anything from them and Iraq does not know it, let them say to us what we have taken away from them so that we may be able to return it to them. In my [word indistinct] they will fail to find anything. I am sure they will fail, and they will find that world public opinion will turn against them, and even inside England and inside the United States. Arab public opinion is—I am sure you would be able to see Arab public opinion, which direction it takes [words indistinct]

Arab public opinion is against foreign presence, or the presence of foreign forces on Arab territory. And if time drags along with the presence of foreign forces on our territory, you will find the agents and regimes under foreign tutelage will fall one by one here. But in any case, I hope and I pray that your presence here in this kind of situation will not be long, and that you will go back to your country, and perhaps we will become friends [words indistinct] Any more questions?

[Question] We realize your destination [as heard], our families know we know your destination, but we would like them to know that we are [word indistinct] and well. Our health [words indistinct] and in good health?

[Husayn] Yes, we shall make sure that your messages will reach your families in England. So, as of now, you can write your letters, and if you want to send photographs [words indistinct]

[Question] [Words indistinct] but he has got all his envoys [words indistinct]

[Husayn] I must say, I must be exact and accurate in saying to you now that, regrettably, nobody has conducted any negotiations or any dialogue as yet. Our foreign minister went to Amman and there he announced that Iraq would be prepared to get into negotiations. And the response came immediately after the foreign minister issued this statement—it was immediate, it was quick, in so a way as the U.S. Administration has responded to all our initiatives. They said immediately that they were not prepared to conduct any dialogue with Iraq before Iraq has withdrawn or left Kuwait, as if Kuwait were Washington. Our response is that neither the Iraqis nor the Arabs in general would be prepared to accept dialogue under blackmail or [words indistinct] If anybody is prepared to come and talk to us, then [words indistinct] under blackmail. You will notice in this situation that there is accusation of being undemocratic, the Iraqis are now asking for dialogue when the so-called democratic West are refusing dialogue. But in any case, the situation will clear up [words indistinct]

[Unmonitorable question]

[Husayn] [words indistinct] the more days you stay here [words indistinct] in the fact that we would be seeking energetically any possibility to resolve the situation and [words indistinct]

[Question] [words indistinct] with the Soviet Union?

[Husayn] [Words indistinct] Yes the East is more understanding to resorting to dialogue. The East is more understanding of the importance of dialogue, especially if this were to be done under an atmosphere of peace. We have so far issued two initiatives [words indistinct] or known about them.

[Words indistinct] In any case, President Bush and others [words indistinct] to learn a great deal from Iraq on the humanitarian level and even on the level of more accurate stands. And before all this, and more important than all of this, the fact that the Iraqi people and the Arab nation will again teach them how to be [words indistinct] I am happy to have met you and to know you, even though I would have [word indistinct] to have met you under different circumstances. I am going to send a lady from the women's federation in Iraq so that she will be able to see what women need [words indistinct] clothing. And I tell them to make sure that you get all you need.

[Question] You know, Mr. Bush is very clever man, yeah? And the last initiative, which [words indistinct] reasonable we all think? Will President Saddam Husayn issue another initiative, sir?

[Husayn] When the phrase is here towards the essence of humanity, when it is human-oriented there, then it will never be confined to get one or two [words indistinct] There is always something new. And we pray that God Almighty will help us. And of course God Almighty does not like frozen states, doesn't want us to freeze. But God always instructs us to be energetic and to live [word indistinct] and to always come up with new [word indistinct] in the service of humanity. The initiative that I issued has in fact received attention from many quarters including [words indistinct]. And of course it is always capable of development. If I did not have other commitments, and if I didn't have to be in other places right now I would have liked to have had lunch with you. You could have [word indistinct] on television and of course it will be [rephrases] that is visual and radio messages to your families so that they can see you and hear your voices and they would know exactly how well you are. I think this is the ideal way, a better way. So let's have a collective picture to remember. And of course [words indistinct]

[Husayn] Would you like to learn some Arabic?

UN Envoys See Foreigners at 'Vital' Installation

JN2308195390 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1845 GMT 23 Aug 90

[Text] Baghdad, 23 Aug (INA)—This evening Viredara Dayal and Kofi Annan, the envoys of UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar, visited the foreign nationals who are present at one of Iraq's vital installations.

The two envoys were apprised of the state of affairs of the guests of Iraq and the nature and level of the services prepared for them.

Saddam Responds to Mubarak in 'Open Letter'

JN2308171490 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 23 Aug 90

["Open letter" from President Saddam Husayn to Egyptian President Husni Mubarak; date not given—read by announcer]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful the compassionate.

Mr. Muhammad Husni Mubarak, president of the Arab Republic of Egypt.

Peace be upon you.

I have been acquainted with the appeal you addressed to us in which you called on the Iraqis to withdraw from Kuwait. You addressed your appeal to us on the basis of what you understand about pan-Arabism and the principles of Islam. Having reread the appeal, I am responding to it. However, my response requires patience from you to read the contents of the answer as well as a degree of tolerance toward the concepts it will contain. This is because the essential points of my answer will appear repetitive because I have mentioned them to you on more than one occasion. You used to approve of them, or thus it seemed to me at least. However, God Almighty has taught us a great deal. Or let us say, God has taught a great deal of what should be taught to His slaves, or to those who are prepared to

learn. Needless to say, the good slaves of God are more capable of learning what should and must be learned. This is because their faith goes beyond pure mental ability as a basic element for learning and assimilation. Among what we have learned from the book of God, the holy Koran, is God's adoption of dialogue with man and His extreme care about it. Wherever God found that man's faith was uncertain or disobeyed the orders of God and His role in creation, He provided him with evidence that removed the uncertainty of monotheism and misguidance, approaching him with a style of dialogue whose level we humans have not been up to. Thus, God tells man: Bring your convincing proof [part of Koranic verse]. If God Almighty, as a path to faith, leaving for man the option of being guided to faith or not, adopts dialogue and calls on those who have other beliefs, bring your convincing proof, we should do so, as God's slaves, to avoid trying to prove what we consider facts or what is deemed an accusation without proof. On the basis of these great human concepts, I must embark on a dialogue with you before I say yes or no about all that your letter contained and all that is a topic of dialogue, discussion, and argument in Egypt, the Arab homeland, and even the world.

Your Excellency the President, before God bestowed on us or before circumstances created the events until we reached the presidency of the republic of Iraq and you became the head authority in Egypt, we were normal citizens. This speaker [Saddam Husayn], the slave of God, was the son of a peasant who died months before his [Saddam Husayn's] mother gave birth to him. He is from an honorable family whose honor is basically derived from its labor and from being a descendant of the Muhammadist Qurayshi [the tribe of Prophet Muhammad] family, as his family's lineage goes back to our master and forefather, al-Husayn, who is the son of 'Ali Ibn-Talib [Prophet Muhammad's cousin and husband of one of the prophet's daughters].

To the best of my knowledge, you, Mr. President, have come of an Egyptian family that has nothing to do with the princes and kings who ruled before the July 1952 revolution. At any rate, by virtue of the fact that we are part of the people, I suppose that our becoming presidents should not make us forget about the people's life, particularly considering that we are responsible for our people, each in accordance with his own position. Besides, we are also responsible for the nation, each according to his belief. Some of these responsibilities are constitutional, which is the epithet for our official responsibilities. The humble servant of God who is addressing you has taken it upon himself to shoulder another responsibility according to which he began to act before he rose to positions of responsibility—since he was a schoolboy. Saddam Husayn believes that the Arab nation is a single nation, that the Arab homeland from the Atlantic Ocean to the Arabian Gulf is a single homeland, that Muhammad Ibn-'Abdallah, the honest messenger and prophet, may God's peace and blessings be upon him, is an Arab from Quraysh [the tribe of the prophet], that God has chosen the Arab nation to serve as faith trustees charged with conveying His message which is contained in His Koran to all of mankind, and that the nation's role, accordingly, is a chosen role; that is, a leading role. And for the nation to maintain its leading role and to perform its responsibilities which God asked it to perform to keep the flame of the new heavenly faith, Islam, glowing, we have to maintain in a special unique way the required traits of faith within and without. The most important thing in Islam and all other heavenly faiths, after faith in the one God, is man's humanity and his capacity for cultivating land and working to establish justice there. Therefore, when a leader, president, or king within the Arab nation walks outside the confines of this path, when he fails to play his role toward the Arab individual, and when he fails to work to cultivate and maintain leadership traits within his personality to relay the message [of Islam] and establish justice on earth, he will not be forgiven by God even if he were to spend all his days and nights performing prayers and fasting.

How would then the situation be when the leader, the ruler fails to sing the praises of God, acts unjustly and ruthlessly, and disobeys God and shows arrogance? All Egyptians and all Arabs are well aware that the Arab states before the emergence of oil in the Arabs' lives as a major source of wealth and before the world's interest in it was as it is right now, had their own standing and ranks. They are aware that each state had its stature, that the position of Arab states, their influence, and their stature were the result of an accumulation of thousands of years of mental and physical work, diligence, and sacrifices.

All of us know that Arab countries have had nicknames and that these are the accumulation of long history and cultural associations. And so Egypt, the land of the Nile, had its stature and influence with the Arabs on the bases I have mentioned. Iraq, Mesopotamia and the rural land, had its stature and influence, as so with Arabia Felix and Green Tunisia in addition to the Arabian Peninsula—the land of Najd and Hejaz—and Bilad al-Sham. Even in Islam these had their stature and role which was reinforced with faith and the honor of carrying the Islamic message so that Egypt came to be known as the land of the Kinana tribe and the honor of al-Qadisiyah became synonymous with the name of Iraq. This arrangement of place, role, and influence was associated, as we pointed out, with the effort and sacrifice of man and derives from a profound civilization that goes far back in history.

Accordingly, no one felt aggrieved whenever the goals and the general policies were common. Along with other factors, this arrangement has played a positive role in the life of the nation and its united stand. But, no sooner had the Arabs rid themselves of Ottoman rule hoping to be united as one nation, than oil was discovered. And there came Europe's conspiratorial carve-up of the Arab world, which was not limited to keeping the key [Arab] countries away from the notion of grand unity, but fragmented certain countries, including splitting Kuwait from southern Iraq; European colonialism had made a

point of keeping Arab territories with oil deposits sparsely populated wherever possible so they would remain too weak to resist colonial greed and shallow in terms of culture and civilization. Indeed, colonialism was at pains to make some of these countries mere distortions, having been severed from the main body and the spirit of its tradition. Thus, oil-generated wealth and the bulk of cultured and civilized Arabs have been kept apart. And since the borders of these parts were drawn by colonialism, and their rulers were installed by foreigners, they put up barriers between themselves and other Arab countries and even fostered the feeling among the people of their mini-states that, if they were to conserve the sources of their wealth, they had to remain aloof from the [Arab] nation and its causes. They opposed Arab unity and the joint struggle and the foreigner became their protector and sponsor of their affluence. As happens with thieves, the ghost of the theft of the wealth of the nation kept haunting the rulers of the small parts with the result that they developed a terrible kind of introspection to such an extent that there was a gap between their words and consciences and it became impossible for anyone to know how to reassure them in order for them to be more responsive and how to keep their mischief at bay after they had been caught up with such feeling and became servants to foreigners. This particularly applies to the shaykhs of the Gulf oil, or most of them. The al-Sabah Family were most prominent among them, since their theft was the more open and flagrant.

Iraq has for a long time suffered from them and from their conspiracies. Their anti-Iraq conspiracies became worse over the past few years. That is because they realized that Iraq rejected the policy of their masters, the colonizers; that it rejected the status of humiliation that they sought to impose on the Arabs; that it also refused to see Arab wealth used to damage the Arab's character, heritage, religion, and ethics; and that it sought to use this wealth to serve Arab goals and all people, considering it pan-Arab wealth.

At a time when all Arabs are bearing the burden signified by the existence of wealth in the Arab homeland, the benefits of this wealth must reach all Arabs. It should not remain in the hands of a tyrannical elite that uses it for licentiousness, corruption, and aggression. The aggression of the oil shaykhs used to increase against Iraq whenever the latter showed stronger adherence to the values of Arabism and Islam and also whenever it said it loud and clear that Jerusalem was Arab and that Palestine was Arab.

I can even say to you, Mr. President, and through you to the dear Egyptian people, that King Fahd's stand against Iraq and against Saddam Husayn is not because Kuwait has returned to its people after having been isolated in the quagmire of humilation, filthy in the quagmire of corruption. Fahd and those who cooperated with him have begun to hatch plots against Iraq and Saddam Husayn after they became convinced that Iraq and Saddam Husayn were taking the side of the poor Arabs and not those living in the lap of luxury, who had forgotten God after forgetting the poor people, and that Iraq, Saddam Husayn, and his comrades would not abandon, under any circumstances, or under the weight of all conspiracies and intrigues, Palestine and holy Jerusalem. For these reasons and also because their masters and those with ill-gotten property were annoyed by and rejected the new Iraq and the policy being pursued by Saddam Husayn and his comrades, they then assumed a conspiratorial role for the same reason that they hated 'Abd-al-Nasir and conspired against him. They conspired against Saddam Husayn for additional reasons other than those that prompted them to conspire against 'Abd-al-Nasir.

Because God urges us to provide evidence so that those who are ready for persuasion can be persuaded, I enclose to you the transcript of a tape with Fahd's voice while conversing with an Arab ruler who was not a party with him to the conspiracy so that you can hear the tape and read the transcript. The conversation was held on 9 July 1990. God has enabled us to obtain this tape without any effort on our part. This tape will show you more and more why they are conspiring against Saddam Husayn. The main reason will be clear. It is because Saddam Husayn has rejected Israeli blackmail and threatened that he would reply to aggression. It is also because he is struggling through his leadership of the great Iraqi people for the return of Arab Palestine. You will see how Fahd even harbors malice toward 'Abd-al-Nasir who is in his tomb for the same reason. Furthermore, you will also see how he agrees with the Gulf oil countries to conspire, and how he asks them to procrastinate for two months until they can coordinate their positions and are able to harm Iraq even more.

Then, I assume your assuredness will be greater and you will arrive at the conviction that the Croesus of Kuwait and his like have been baneful germs eating away at all that is honorable and dear of the nation's possessions and all that provides the nation with spiritual or material power.

Also then, we will have added new evidence to the large amount that we possess to substantiate the argument that what has happened is the thing that should have happened and that the land of the Arabs, who are a single nation, will be inherited by the righteous slaves of God. If this is the case, then how should it be if this land were to be an Iraqi land that had become a base for conspiracy in order to cut off the breast of its mother and kill it after sucking its milk and blood?

Arab oil is for the Arabs; this is a slogan that we have raised since we were schoolboys and it is high time it was implemented to serve the Arabs and their values so that the Arabs can become what they should be, the vanguard of Muslims, by virtue of their faith, honor, morals, culture, and progress, and an example to be followed by the Islamic nation and by humanity as a whole.

Mr. President: You are the president of the Egyptian people—these dear people who endured a great deal

because of oil. For, had it not been for oil, the price of Egyptian goods would not have risen as they have and the Egyptian people's clothing, food, houses, school, and cultural needs would not have become costlier. The purchasing power of the oil countries and their rulers has reflected negatively and dangerously on the life of our people and nation from the farthest point in the west to that in the east. In the past an Arab was not used to comparing lifestyles or looking up to the living standards of Westerners. However, the Egyptian young are now mingling with the young of the [United] Arab Emirates, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait formerly, and Qatar. When they learn about the latter's expenses and their lifestyles, the Egyptian young will start looking to a standard of living that is beyond their level and their purchasing power. This is because the one whom they want to emulate is an Arab like themselves and a student in their school. And the fathers of the Egyptian young might be better than the fathers of these by virtue of honor, work, culture, faith, and cleverness. When the Egyptian young, however, cherish certain aspirations and place their aspirations within a framework of comparison with these Arabs, they feel bitterness, they feel cheated.

Because their means do not allow them to have what they need, the Egyptian young might go astray while searching for means that will get for them what others have already got. This is one of the causes of social delinquency among men and women. In fact, such bitterness and the feeling that the historical status of certain countries which once occupied a leading place has receded to be replaced by names that do not possess any qualifications except that they are oil states, has made the bitterness rise so much that it has reached rulers and leaders. Moreover, some of the aberrations of rulers in non-oil countries are caused by the bitterness over the unrighteous and the latter's slipping into things that bring them closer to a level they believe is the most efficient to maintain the degree of propriety befitting a ruler.

Arab women, as the popular saying goes, are the responsibility of the generous, and the same probably applies in the Egyptian countryside, especially in Upper Egypt. Therefore, preserving the honor of Egypt's girls and shielding them against corruption and being corrupted is your direct responsibility, Mr. President, just as it is my direct responsibility toward honorable Iraqi women. It is indeed, a principled pan-Arab responsibility toward all Arab women, including the women of the countries whose rulers behave dissolutely. We cannot preserve the honor of the women of Egypt, Iraq, and other Arabs, nor will the hunger of the deprived in Egypt and elsewhere in the Arab world be satisfied or the door to social, economic, scientific, and cultural development in the Arab world open unless the right balance is restored between responsibility and influence, and unless Arab wealth is handled in a way that pleases God and is in accordance with his teachings.

Do you not know, Mr. President, that the personal wealth of the Croesus of Kuwait is $60 billion and that of King Fahd is $18 billion? I am quoting figures published in countries allied to these Croesuses. And yet the published figures may not tell the whole story. Do you not know, Mr. President, that reports published in the West about the so-called Kuwaiti Government has $220 billion invested and deposited in U.S. and European banks? If their proceeds were to be invested in the Arab homeland it would become an ideal place. Do you not know, Mr. President, that U.S. assistance to Egypt is a meager portion of the United States' profits from Arab wealth and that the share of Egypt's people in Arab wealth is far higher than this favor [minnah] from the United States, on whose account you were pressured to send the Army of the land of the Kinana tribe [Egypt] to face off the Army of al-Qadisiyah [Iraq] and to give cover to the crime of criminal Americans as they occupy the land of the sanctities of Arabs and Muslims in Najd and Hejaz [Saudi Arabia]? Was it to advance such purposes that the the Arab Army of Egypt was founded? The people and Army of Egypt are Arab believers. They are, therefore, on the side of right against wrong. As their head of state, it is only right that you do not compliment, cover, or be involved in the crime. It is only right that you should take the side of the people of Egypt, the poor in Egypt, the Arab nation, and the poor of the Arab nation. It is only right that you should take the side of faith and be among the ranks of the faithful who are striving against the corrupt, the dissolute, the tyrants, and the army of invaders that has insulted the Ka'ba and the tomb of the messenger [Muhammad]. Only then would the expression be appropriate to describe Arab nationalism and pan-Arabism and Islam and peace, as life is worthless under the yoke of injustice, occupation, invasion, and corruption, and denial of the spirit of the principles of Islam. Jihad is a right and an obligation. The faithful from the [Atlantic] Ocean to the [Arabian] Gulf are growing in number. The infidels, the hypocrites, and the invaders are trembling in anticipation of the major battle. God, his messenger, and the faithful are on our side, and if you should decide to be in this group you will win the approval of God and your people. Then you will be a dear brother, and God is great and let the lowly be accursed.

Fahd-Amir Dialogue Said To Prove 'Conspiracy'

JN2308205590 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic in 1830 GMT 23 Aug 90

["Text" of telephone conversation announced as taking place between King Fahd of Saudi Arabia and "the Qatari ruler" (Shaykh Khalifah Bin-Hamad Al Thani) on 9 July 1990, which "proves the conspiracy against Iraq and the Arab nation"—read by announcer]

[Text] [Fahd] When Besharati [Iranian Foreign Ministry official] came to us, everything was agreed upon except for a simple issue. The official has now departed us. He said: I will call our group and come back to you so that we can settle things. I said to him: Please, envoy of good offices, we do not want problems, neither from distant nor near places. A week before Besharati came, and before the lunch we talked about, Sa'ud al-Faysal called

me and told me that we could meet again and try to settle things. Have we ever said no? It is sufficient for us to have the danger of Israel, which is threatening Iraq and is also threatening us. We have come back to 'Abd-al-Nasir's story in 1967.

[Al Thani] May God lead you on the correct path and give you a long life. You are a blessing, may God protect you. We tell you to go your way, and we will follow you, because you always march seriously.

[Fahd] I will lead no one but you.

[Al Thani] May God reward you.

[Fahd] I just wanted to tell you and I told Hisham [Saudi oil minister] to tell all your brother ministers not to heed what the Iraqi minister said one way or another. For Iraq is now suffering a sensitive situation with Israel and they are afraid every day that something might happen. The Iraqi minister said some meaningless words. What is important, however, is to organize ourselves during these two months, especially when things calm down and we follow a defensive line. We have two months. We, as Gulf states can meet and arrange things among us. In Iraq as well they are now confused. They no longer know what are they talking about. They have lost their composure. You know, may God grant you a long life, when someone loses his temper, even what he says will not be weighed properly.

[Al Thani] By God what you are saying is true. What they say is not weighed at all.

[Fahd] I swear we do not want any problems with Israel or with Iran.

[Al Thani] God forbid.

[Fahd] As Gulf states, we are envied. But where were those who envy us when we were poor and when all we had were trees and stones? I swear they have not even said our brothers do not have anything.

[Al Thani] Yes.

[Fahd] When we became affluent, we did not forget them. They only came to us when we became affluent and had we been in a different situation they would not have talked to us.

[Fahd] When we fought armies and could not find a piece of date or the price of bread, nobody supported us or said, let us join our brothers.

[Al Thani] That is true, may you live long.

[Fahd] Today, having been bestowed upon by God, we have been generous to them.

[Al Thani] You said the truth.

[Fahd] By God, may you live long, all that I seek is to prevent a loss of nerves. If nerves calm down regarding Iraq, it might be possible to reach an understanding with them. Saddam holds you in high regard. For me and all the brothers, it is important to ease their nervous tension. I told our minister to see his counterpart there tomorrow and told him that matters should be settled among the Gulf ministers before meeting with Iraq. They should support each other and tolerate abnormal statements by the Iraqi. These people seem to me as if they were looking for problems. They have placed themselves in a certain situation with Israel. What do they want from Israel? There are 700 km between them and Israel. Matters should be addressed with reason, wisdom, and farsightedness.

[Al Thani] By God, you have told the truth.

[Fahd] But our brothers in Iraq have put themselves in a maze.

[Al Thani] That is true.

[Fahd] They have got themselves into problems, the same problems 'Abd-al-Nasir got himself into, but never managed to get himself out of. How can we fight the entire world?

[Al Thani] Between you and me, I tell you he has increased the problems of the Palestinians.

[Fahd] The evil ones do not care about others.

[Al Thani] That is true.

[Fahd] May God show Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] the right way. We told our Palestinian brothers we should do something so that the West Bank and Gaza would not be lost. If we take them and you go there, then the Arabs will be stronger and more united. It is feared that the West Bank and Gaza may be lost because of the statements.

[Al Thani] This is the problem.

[Fahd] You must weigh matters and think about the future to face the Arabs and the European states and America. Look at the Soviet Union. Who would have imagined that it could reach this level of agreement with America?

[Al Thani] No one had thought about it in the least.

[Fahd] This is what made us tell our minister to see his Gulf counterparts even if Iraq says some aberrant words; let them ignore such words, as if they had never been said. It is important to make these two months pass in an organized, useful, and constructive manner. Let us make sure that if we issue a statement on oil, it is issued quickly because we expect differences. I believe that if we hold a Gulf summit while you are present with our other brother members of the Gulf, that means that what they are telling the other brothers you are worthless, what is worthy is in fact what we have. [sentence as heard] We will see.

[Al Thani] No, this is unacceptable.

[Fahd] As a principle, if they have this idea, I said you should let the oil ministers meet and hold discussions

among themselves. The oil, foreign, and finance ministers in each state should meet to discuss all matters from all political, financial, social, and oil angles.

[Al Thani] That is true.

[Fahd] By then you can think about a summit conference, but do not impose a failed summit.

[Al Thani] May God protect you, Kuwait [as heard].

[Fahd] Our Iraqi brothers may have dismissed the idea of a summit conference.

[Al Thani] Praise be to God.

[Fahd] The oil ministers, God willing, will meet. Everything will materialize. And if you come, I will talk to you about it.

[Al Thani] You, may God protect you, speak on behalf of all Gulf states. Say the word, which will be the first and final word.

[Fahd] May God grant you a long life, I only sought to bring benefit. May God grant you a long life, I only want to bring benefit.

[Al Thani] May God grant you a long life, we only like to walk this path. Your policies and views are moderate and sound.

[Fahd] May God protect you and grant you a long life. May God protect you and grant you a long life. May you live for long. It is too easy to ignite sedition. But, how are we to put it out?

[Al Thani] May God grant you long life.

[Fahd] May God grant you long life, Israel is a country that has 200 nuclear warheads and 47 atomic bombs. They [the Israelis] seek to kill us and our Palestinian brothers. But we are ready to support them if they seek by all means to take the West Bank and Gaza. The Palestinians should not raise a fuss after Israel takes these lands and builds settlements there.

[Al Thani] Let us secure for them [the Palestinians] a location, a principled position. This position must be irreversibly obtained.

[Fahd] May God grant you long life, you know better than I. Are all the Arabs agreed among themselves?

[Al Thani] No.

[Fahd] Sometimes they agree on what they want. Once they finish this, they do not know anything [words indistinct].

[Al Thani] That is true.

[Fahd] As you know, during the first conference in Iraq they milked us. Now it seems that they do not know us. By God, they do not know us.

[Al Thani] We Arabs are like mercury, if you [words indistinct] it will come to you.

[Fahd] Anyhow, this gives us an idea as long as we, the Gulf states, are in agreement with one another.

[Al Thani] By God, there is no path for us except the one you adopt and walk upon.

[Fahd] May God grant you your rights. If you do not mind, we will send our oil minister. The four of you [Qatar, Bahrain, United Arab Emirates, Kuwait] can meet as before and make arrangements together. Go and see if the need arises for you to come and see the son of Sa'ud, may God grant him long life.

[Al Thani] That is fine. Your oil minister is still alive. I told him that whatever the Saudi [oil] minister says is to be applied.

[Fahd] God willing, things will turn out right with your presence.

[Al Thani] May God enlighten you further.

[Fahd] Thank you and may God grant you long life.

[Al Thani] May God enlighten you further and may He grant you success all the time.

[Fahd] Relay our greetings to the heir apparent and to the entire family.

[Al Thani] May God keep you. They are all safe, sound, and happy. They want you to be always healthy and comfortable. Convey our greetings to the brothers, may God protect you, and also to the family. I bid you farewell. May God protect and safeguard you.

[Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic at 2000 GMT on 23 August carries a rebroadcast of the tape recording of the purported Fahd-Al Thani conversation; with the following introduction: "Iraq called for a summit meeting of Iraq, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, and the United Arab Emirates and strongly urged King Fahd to attend the meeting to discuss the subversive oil policy of the UAE rulers and the Croesuses [Kuwaiti rulers]. Although the other parties agreed to this meeting, or thus it seemed to us, King Fahd substituted the four-sided summit conference with the meeting of the oil ministers, and Iraq agreed to that.

"Therefore, in the telephone conversation, Fahd calls on the rulers of the oil-producing Gulf states, including Shaykh Khalifah [of Qatar], to have a meeting of their ministers before getting together with the Iraqi oil minister in order to coordinate a joint policy and confront Iraq with a unified stand when the meeting took place. At the same time, he urges them to keep cool about Iraq's nervousness, as he put it, when the four-sided meeting of the oil ministers we referred to took place. On the other hand, Fahd tells the oil ministers in the Gulf, except Iraq, to deny Iraq the opportunity, as he says, and to coordinate stands during the two months to follow the telephone conversation to confront Iraq.

"This is a clear reference to concerted counteraction, which is the real plan Saudi Arabia called for. This indicates that the action of the governments of Kuwait and the United Arab Emirates was not a unilateral or bilateral action, but an action taken on behalf of the oil countries in the Gulf and that the leader of the operation was Fahd himself. When he refers in the conversation to Yasir 'Arafat, Abu-'Ammar, he refers to him because Abu-'Ammar rejected a partial settlement as Fahd wanted and as he agreed with former U.S. President Jimmy Carter."]

Foreign Forces Deploy 'Nuclear Weapons' in Gulf

JN2408075590 Baghdad INA in English 1730 GMT 23 Aug 90

[Text] Geneva, Aug 23, INA—Iraq warned the international community that foreign forces in the Arab Gulf region had deployed nuclear weapons.

Iraq noted that this represented a serious threat with grave consequences on the region's security and the world at large.

In a speech before the fourth conference of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty members, Dr 'Abd-al-Rahim al-Kital said that Western fleets massed up in the waters of the Arab Gulf included ships operated by nuclear energy while others were equipped with nuclear war heads and that there were signs that foreign land and air forces deployed nuclear weapons on the soils of countries party to the Nuclear Non-Prolifiration Treaty.

Dr al-Katil, head of the Iraqi delegation to the conference, added that this foreign military intervention represented, besides other grave issues, an outright breach of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty and its aims and constituted a serious and dangerous threat to the security of the region's countries, that do not possess nuclear weapons, as well as on the safety of their people natural resources and on the region and the whole world. Dr al-Katil, who is also the Iraqi ambassador to Austria, said that illegitimate foreign intervention in the region's affairs included military deployments resulted in grave outcomes to the interelations among the region's states, the Arab national security and the safety of Arab states themselves.

Shamir Ready To 'Prevent,' 'Preempt' War

TA2308181290 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Arabic 1630 GMT 23 Aug 90

["Excerpt" of address by Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir before a delegation of the United Jewish Appeal on 23 August in Jerusalem—recorded in English with Arabic subtitles]

[Text] While there are storm clouds in the skies around us, our people are calm and confident. The crisis in the Persian Gulf is mounting towards a peak. For reasons that are obvious, we in Israel are not directly involved in the military buildup, but we are following events very closely. We are ready for any development that may take place.

There are actors in the region who would like to draw us into an armed conflict. We need strong nerves, patience, and a high state of readiness.

We have placed ourselves directly in the camp of the free democracies, led by the United States, not only because it serves the current interest, but because naturally we identify with it. Israel has the capacity to defend itself against any Arab combination, to deter aggression, and to protect our borders. But in recent years it has become more and more difficult to maintain this advantage because of the accumulation of massive quantities of sophisticated weapons by the states around us.

My friends, when you read statistics of Iraq's huge volume of arms and the type of destructive weapons they have, you must surely wonder how it is possible for us to face this danger with confidence and a sense of security. That the development of quality in our defense system compensates for lack of quantity is one of our small nation's great achievements. It has deterred aggression and prevented war in the past, and will do so in the future.

All the states in our region know that anyone who will be tempted to test our resolve and our capacity will pay very dearly.

[Jerusalem Domestic Service in English at 1700 GMT on 23 August reports the following on Shamir's speech: "Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir says he believes the crisis in the Persian Gulf is reaching its peak, and Israel is following developments, ready to cope with any situation." Reporter Jack Katzenell adds: "The prime minister warned that there are factors in the region which are trying to draw Israel into an armed conflict. He said Israel's aim is to prevent war, but the way in which he put it caused a minor furor." He provides Shamir's words: "In the circumstances, our major task is to prevent war, or to preempt it, and if, heaven forbid, these two fail and there is no alternative, we have to win quickly and decisively." Katzenell then says: "It was the expression to prevent or to preempt that caused the flurry, because the verb preempt immediately recalled the preemptive strike of the Six-Day War. Immediately after the speech, we asked the prime minister if Israel plans a preemptive strike against Iraq. Not at all, he replied. So why did he use the expression, we persisted? It is a general principle of our strategy, he replied.

"Our investigation had discovered that the speech was written by the prime minister's English-language speechwriter, and apparently he used the term preempt without thinking of the impact it would make," says Katzenell.]

[Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew at 1605 GMT on 23 August also carries excerpts of Shamir's speech, providing the following addition from the prime minister's address: "My friends, while these major developments are taking place in region, the first item on our national agenda remains aliyah and absorption."]

Pazner Clarifies Shamir Remarks

TA2408071390 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0500 GMT 24 Aug 90

[Telephone interview with Avi Pazner, the prime minister's media adviser, by Mikha Friedman and Ya'el Dan—live]

[Text] [Friedman] Good morning. We would like to understand the meaning of the prime minister's remarks last night. Is that Israel's strategy toward Iraq. If possible prevention, if that fails a preemptive strike, and if we are not quick enough then a fast and decisive response—is that the strategy?

[Pazner] That is certainly not the strategy toward Iraq and that is also not what the prime minister said. If you pay attention to the sentence, the prime minister did not refer to a preemptive strike. He said: First prevention, later deterrence, and if, God forbid, both of these fail and there is no alternative, then if there is war we must win quickly and decisively.

[Friedman] You refer to the words to deter [last two words in English] but the prime minister used the words to preempt [last two words in English], which is a known strategic buzz word.

[Pazner] That is also true of deterrence. When the correspondents present asked me about it in real time, while the prime minister was making his speech, I told them that since they understood the context of the sentence, the meaning was of course to prevent and deter. The correspondents asked me whether the prime minister would be prepared personally to tell us that. I said, certainly, I will try after he finishes his speech to get him to talk to you for several minutes and clarify his words. That is what happened. The prime minister agreed to do that with the many correspondents present, which included foreign television networks. He said specifically what I have just told you. Therefore there could not have been any misunderstanding.

[Dan] Is this the right time for such an expression by the prime minister?

[Pazner] That is exactly what the prime minister said in Hebrew on Wednesday's Moqed television program and

everybody understood him correctly. That is also what he said in English. There is no room for misunderstanding, especially since both the prime minister himself and I explained matters on the spot.

[Friedman] If a preemptive strike was not used should the concept be removed from the State of Israel's strategic jargon?

[Pazner] I am not a military strategist, I just wanted to explain that the remarks made yesterday did not mention it in any way.

[Friedman] Mr. Pazner, since you are on the line, I would like to refer to a report, which you must have heard about, in the British DAILY MAIL, which quotes a British expert as saying that he knows, or believes, that Iraq is capable of putting together a primitive nuclear bomb within a week or two. Is that feasible, as far as we know?

[Pazner] I do not know, but it seems strange to me. Had we not acted in 1981 [when Israel destroyed the Iraqi nuclear reactor] we might have been in such a situation now. The evaluations I have seen lately do not confirm such a thing.

Netanyahu Views Husayn Media Control Statement

TA2308184790 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1700 GMT 23 Aug 90

[Text] Deputy Foreign Minister Binyamin Netanyahu has expressed disappointment at King Husayn's statement that the Zionists control the chanceries of the world and the international media. In an interview with our reporter Jack Katzenell, Netanyahu said it would be merely laughable were it not for the tragic results produced by this canard in this century.

[Begin recording] [Netanyahu] We were very disappointed to hear the allegations about the Zionist control of the foreign chanceries and the international media. That could be merely laughable were it not demonstrated in this century that this canard can produce tragic results. King Husayn said that this crisis is the result of Zionist activities. I wonder if he wants us to believe that Saddam Husayn invaded Kuwait on Zionist orders.

[Katzenell] Are you saying, sir, that the king's statement is anti-Semitic or by implication anti-Semitic?

[Netanyahu] It reeks of a bad odor.

[Katzenell] What do you think are the implications of King Husayn's statement for relations between Israel and Jordan in this crisis?

[Netanyahu] Well, one would hope that this was a passing lapse. King Husayn and Jordan are clearly caught in a difficult vise, but I'm sure that upon examination they will understand that the interest of Jordan is in stability, and that means not allowing Jordan to become an Iraqi base. Certainly our interest is to have stability in Jordan and the maintenance of the status quo. [end recording]

Communists Attack Soviet Role in Gulf

TA2008044090 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0400 GMT 20 Aug 90

[Text] For the first time ever, the Israeli Communist Party [RAKAH, New Communist List] has launched a blistering attack on the Soviet Union. In a leaflet in Arabic distributed in the Nazareth area, the party says Moscow's failure to oppose American intervention in the Gulf is tantamount to complicity in America's crimes. A Voice of Israel reporter in the north says support for Iraq's President Saddam Husayn is spreading among Israeli Arabs. Two days ago, 1,500 Arabs demonstrated in Nazareth in his support, burning an American flag and a picture of Egypt's President Husni Mubarak.

Egyptian Envoy Displeased by Disclosure of Request

TA2308101290 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 23 Aug 90 p A2

[Report by 'Aqiva Eldar and news agencies]

[Excerpt] Muhammad Basyuni, the Egyptian ambassador to Israel, has expressed his displeasure over the publication of Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid's request that Israel permit the transit of Egyptian refugees through Elat. Basyuni spoke of the embarrassment he was caused by the publication of this sensitive issue. Meanwhile, Egypt has stepped up its efforts to evacuate its citizens from al-'Aqabah via air and sea, and it remains unclear whether it has as yet approached Jordan with a request to open the al-'Aqabah-Elat border, or whether Cairo has decided to abandon the issue following its publication.

Ori Oren, an adviser to the foreign minister, told HA'ARETZ that Israel's public acquiescence to the Egyptian request makes it difficult for Jordan's King Husayn to refuse or to avoid responding to Egypt's humanitarian appeal. On the contrary, Oren expressed the belief that the publication of the request may spur King Husayn to give an affirmative response to Egypt, as one may assume he has taken into consideration what the probable international reaction would be to any Jordanian refusal to provide assistance to Arab citizens in distress. Oren said that there was no reason to shroud the contacts on the issue under a veil of secrecy, and he added that Basyuni had made no request to keep the matter secret. Basyuni left for consultations in Egypt yesterday. [passage omitted]

[Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew on 23 Aug in a page 2 report by Moti Bassok adds that "political circles in Jerusalem estimate that Egypt has decided not to implement the option of using the overland route through Elat to evacuate the Egyptian refugees fleeing Iraq and Kuwait."]

Turkish Charge on Gulf Situation, Water Issue

TA1708171190 Tel Aviv DAVAR (DEVAR HASHAVU'A supplement) in Hebrew 17 Aug p 6

["Special" interview with Turkish Charge d'Affaires Ekrem Guvendiren by Pazit Rabina; date and place not given]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] [Rabina] An exacerbation of the situation currently seems more likely than the "prevalence of reason." What will you do if Iraq exhibits aggression toward Turkey? Will Turkey launch a military attack or would you perhaps choose to shut off Iraq's water supply? The sources of the Euphrates and the Tigris rivers are in Turkey.

[Guvendiren] First of all: If we are attacked, we shall not only react—all the members of NATO will make sure the aggression against us is ceased. As for the water sources in Turkish territory, we shall follow international law, and the law expressly stipulates that when discussing waters which traverse the borders between countries, each country enjoys total sovereignty over the water flowing through its territory, and it must use these waters without causing damage to its neighbors.

[Rabina] Nevertheless, even less than two months ago, before there was even a sign of the impending Kuwaiti crisis, tensions ran high between Iraq and Turkey over the water issue. The Iraqis claimed that their summer crops were damaged because Turkey stopped the rivers in order to fill up its dams.

[Guvendiren] Whoever said that was just trying to make some political gains. We consider the water issue a mere technical problem and not a political one. This is also the reason that when we filled up the Ataturk Lake we first warned Syria and Iraq to fill up their water reservoirs. In addition we also promised the Iraqis and Syrians that we would supply them with a quantity of 500 cubic meters of water per second in all conditions—even in the event of a drought—although we did not owe them anything. We were capable of making this promise thanks to the three dams we have built, which collect water during the winter and permit us to control the rivers' flow. The problem arose because Iraq was not satisfied with our generous offer and demanded 700 cubic meters of water per second. This set off the dispute. We said that this was not the way to handle the problem. We told the Iraqis that they had to first come with accurate data. We had to see just how much water each side really needed, according to modern irrigation systems. Israel, for instance, a country poor in water, does not experience any problems due to the correct use of drip irrigation.

[Rabina] Water is not just a matter of irrigation. It has other uses.

[Guvendiren] That is true. We really need those waters in order to generate electricity. Five million people live in Turkey's Euphrates basin area. They will get the electricity they need from a power station on the river. The residents of this area have been condemned to very low living standards for many years. Now, thanks to the power plant, they will receive the conditions they deserve. This will not, of course, come at the expense of the farmers in Syria and in Iraq.

[Rabina] Despite this feeling, it is difficult to ignore the estimate of many strategic experts who predict that the next war will be over water.

[Guvendiren] I repeat: Turkey, Iraq, and Syria can resolve the problem. Water will not constitute a causus belli. I do not consider this possible in today's world. There are too many wars as it is. And as for Iraq, the Euphrates is not its only water source.

[Rabina] The water issue also has an Israeli angle. There has recently been talk of a fantastic project to deliver water from Turkey in giant balloons that would float down the Mediterranean toward Israel. Do you take this seriously?

[Guvendiren] There is an experimental Turkish-Canadian project to deliver water, but not from the Euphrates or the Tigris, but rather from two Turkish rivers in the (Kilikiyah) region—the Seyhun and the Ceyhun. These two rivers begin and end in Turkish territory. We are talking about water of superior quality. We have many cities along the Mediterranean coast, including Istanbul, that are in dire need of water, and the idea was to examine whether water could be delivered to these cities via a seaborne route. The Canadians suggested huge water containers that would float along the coast. Sweet water is lighter than sea water and the containers were therefore supposed to float. This could work in principle. The question is who would construct these containers. I know the idea met with enthusiasm in Israel, but it seems a bit far off to me at the moment. [passage omitted]

Czechoslovak Official Discusses Crisis, Cooperation

TA2308164290 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1600 GMT 23 Aug 90

[Text] Vojtech Wagner, the deputy foreign minister of Czechoslovakia, is currently visiting Israel. Our political correspondent Arye Golan reports that he conferred today with senior Foreign Ministry officials in Jerusalem for an exchange of views on the Persian Gulf crisis and to discuss bilateral cooperation.

Iraq Reportedly May 'Offer' To Merge With Jordan

TA2408092090 Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew 24 Aug 90 p 1

[Report by Avner Regev]

[Text] Sources in Israel estimated that there is a possibility that Saddam Husayn will make Jordan an offer it will find difficult to refuse—unification with Iraq. During its initial stage, such a union will not necessitate the stationing of Iraqi forces in Jordan, and Iraq will therefore not be crossing Israel's red lines.

Senior political circles believe that the Jordanian king will turn down the Iraqi proposal, as he had apparently reached some secret understandings with the United States during his recent visit to Washington. These understandings now permit the king to continue playing a double game, and place him on the side of the United States and its allies in the Persian Gulf conflict. This is also probably the reason for the low profile treatment accorded King Husayn by the United States.

Editorial on 'Disturbing' Arab Support for Saddam

TA2008123590 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 20 Aug 90 p 4

[Editorial: "Arab Citizens' Loyalty"]

[Text] One of the most disturbing ripple effects of the Gulf crisis is the enthusiastic support for Saddam Husayn among Israeli Arabs. Prominent members of the community such as Knesset members [MK's] 'Abd al-Wahab Darawshah and Muhammad Mi'ari praise Saddam as a great leader and "liberator." Thousands of demonstrators within the Green Line hail him as a new Saladin and lionize 'Arafat and King Husayn for supporting him, while cursing President Mubarak and King Fahd as American lackeys. Public opinion polls conducted in Arab towns and villages show that two thirds of Israeli Arabs—almost as large a percentage as in the "territories"—support Saddam Husayn's invasion of Kuwait. Other respondents disapprove of the invasion but support him nevertheless.

That Israeli Arabs are frustrated and that they have reasons to be dissatisfied is painfully obvious. To a great extent consecutive Israel governments are to blame. They have been remiss in not raising the level of services to Arab communities; budget allocations to Arab municipal councils are substantially smaller than those granted Jewish communities; the road infrastructure in Arab areas has been neglected even more than in the rest of the country; and Arab educational facilities have been allowed to fall below the standards of those in Jewish communities.

But it must also be noted that Israeli Arabs have full political and civil rights—which they have nowhere else in the Middle East—and that the growth in the Jewish sector with which they are demanding parity is not entirely the product of government munificence, but a result of voluntary initiative and hard work. Nor is the phenomenon of discriminated-against minorities unique to Israel. It exists in most countries, including the proudest democracies, and in Israel it cannot be divorced from the ever-present security problem and the constant state of quasi-war.

But while the government should do more to improve the lot of the Arab minority, it cannot countenance a situation in which a large part of its population displays sympathy for the nation's mortal enemy. No country can. The inequities suffered by American blacks, for instance, dwarf the afflictions of Israeli Arabs. Yet any whiff of massive black disloyalty, and suspicion that the mainstream black leadership sympathized with America's enemies, would have destroyed all prospects of popular support for their civil rights struggle.

[text] Moreover, there is patently no connection between Arab resentment of government policies and sympathy for Saddam Husayn. The pro-Saddam hysteria is not limited to Arabs under Israeli rule. It is sweeping Jordan and other countries with even greater intensity. Nor is there a question that the Arabs of Israel understand the implications of their support for Saddam. One of the banners at the demonstration in Kafr Kanna in Galilee displayed the slogan "Don't worry, Saddam, spray them with gas and poison," another said, "Hit the Americans and Israel with chemical weapons." (With impressive logic, this invitation for a shower of poison gas—which may have trouble discriminating between Arab and Jew—is complemented by a demand that gas masks be distributed to the Arab population.) One wonders how MK Darawshah and his colleagues can fail to condemn unequivocally such demonstrations and yet continue to describe themselves as loyal Israeli citizens. Surely they must know that their protestations of fealty to the state are irreconcilable with their support for a tyrant who has threatened Israel with annihilation.

Those who still believe in the prospect of coexistence and peace can only hope that the pro-Saddam sentiment now sweeping Israeli Arabs is a "high" induced by an overdose of lurid fanaticism rather than a symptom of an incurable addiction. Historian-orientalist Yehoshu'a Porat of the Hebrew University asserts that Palestinian Arabs—in fact all Arabs—do not dream of sovereignty in part of Palestine but of the total Arabization of the Middle East. It is a dream which leaves no room for a Jewish state. For the sake of good relations between Jew and Arab in Israel one must hope that Israeli Arabs do not share this dream.

Palestinians Lose Financially for Supporting Iraq

TA2108095890 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew (MAMON Financial Supplement) 21 Aug 90 p 3

[Report by Roni Shaqed]

[Excerpts] "The Palestinians have put all their eggs in one basket, and it now transpires that this basket has gaping holes. They may rapidly find themselves on the losing side as a result of their support for Iraq." This statement was made by a source in the defense establishment who handles issues relating to the territories. Palestinian notables in the territories fear that within a few weeks the populace will really feel the absence of monies that used to flow from the Persian Gulf Emirates.

Cautious estimates place the expected loss to the residents of the territories at approximately $150 million per year. This sum refers to the funds that used to be delivered to various institutions and organizations, and the wages sent home by Palestinian workers to family members in the territories.

The institutions of higher education in the territories will be the main losers, since most of their operational budget, including their employees' paychecks, come from Kuwait. Approximately 90 percent of the budget of Abu-Dis University, for example, is Kuwaiti money. The official name of the university is "The Kuwaiti College." Muhammad al-Sabah, the foreign minister of Kuwait until 3 weeks ago, headed the university's board of trustees. [passage omitted]

The financial loss incurred by the PLO in the territories, as a result of its support for Iraq, may reach $250 million, mainly in contributions from the Gulf Emirates and Saudi Arabia, and monies collected from the 250,000 Palestinian workers in the Gulf states. According to an agreement with the PLO, the governments deducted five percent of the Palestinian workers' salaries. These sums were turned over to the PLO who used it—among other things—to grease the wheels of the intifadah, pay the members of the popular committees, compensate the wounded and the families of the dead, and to bankroll the activists and the East Jerusalem press.

The value of the Jordanian dinar in the territories has plummeted by about 20 percent since the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait. The Iraqi dinar has also lost some of its value; after Iraq announced the merger of the Kuwaiti and Iraqi currencies, the value of the Kuwaiti dinar dropped to 18 Jordanian fils [as published], as opposed to its previous value of 2.5 Jordanian dinars. [passage omitted]

Arens on Measures for Economy in Territories

TA2208171590 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1600 GMT 22 Aug 90

[Text] Defense Minister Moshe Arens has notified senior economic and industry figures from the territories that a series of measures to encourage economic activity will be introduced. In a meeting with the group, Minister Arens notified them about approvals to bring in Judaea and Samaria larger sums of money, to set up a new bank, and open additional branches for the existing bank. He also told the individuals that they must find alternative markets in case the plans to export to Iraq do not materialize.

Our correspondent Arye Gus notes that ever since the beginning of the Gulf crisis the Civil Administration has been supervising the traffic of goods on the Jordan River bridges to make sure no shipments leave for Iraq.

Arens on Palestinian Problem, U.S. Arms Sales

TA2408061490 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 24 Aug 90 p A1

[Report on "exclusive" interview with Defense Minister Moshe Arens by military correspondent Eytan Rabin; place and date not given]

[Excerpts] "Those who think that in the wake of the Persian Gulf crisis the Palestinian problem can be abandoned are mistaken," Defense Minister Moshe Arens said in an exclusive interview with HA'ARETZ. "I do not think that others have to push us into dealing with the Palestinian problem, but that it is an issue that must be dealt with."

Arens said that the crisis has brought about a sharp improvement in the political position of Israel, which up to two and a half weeks ago was the only country warning of the danger to be expected from Saddam Husayn and his army. "We faced that danger almost on our own up to two and a half weeks ago, when the situation changed completely. It is now the United States that is leading the group of countries prepared to stand up to Saddam Husayn."

The defense minister believes that the crisis strengthens Israel's demand for additional arms from the United States. "I believe that the Americans know that we feel we need additional arms above and beyond the aid we have been receiving over the years," he said.

"I met with U.S. Defense Secretary Richard Cheney prior to the crisis and presented him with our demands," the defense minister said. "I believe that this crisis makes our request more urgent," he said.

Referring to the U.S. arms deal with Saudi Arabia and Egypt, which includes the sale of offensive weapons, Arens said that in the current circumstances "there is more understanding than in the past for why the Americans feel great pressure to implement such deals, but these are issues that we will have to discuss with the United States."

Arens refused to say if Israel would express opposition to arms supplies to Saudi Arabia and Egypt. "I do not think we can say that if the Saudis receive tanks they will direct them against Israel. They have a different concern and that is Iraq, but what will happen in another year or two?" the minister said.

[Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew at 0400 GMT on 24 Aug adds: "The defense establishment says Israel has reservations about the supply of sophisticated Western arms to Saudi Arabia, but our Army affairs correspondent Karmela Menashe was told that it was difficult for Israel to initiate a campaign against the administration's plans at a time when U.S. soldiers are deployed in the Persian Gulf. There is, however, concern that weapons systems now directed against Iraq will be used for completely different purposes in the future. In view of the Gulf crisis, Israel might demand from the United States sophisticated weapons systems, including possibly Patriot missiles."] [passage omitted]

The defense minister said he believes that the Iraqi president "understood the message" in the warnings issued by Israeli leaders. He said there is nothing to add to the prime minister's remarks that "if Saddam Husayn attacks us, the counterblow would be terrible."

Arens refused to respond to the question of whether Israel has nonconventional arms and reiterated the official position that Israel would not be the first to bring such weapons into the Middle East. "The late Moshe Dayan added to that precept something very wise when he said that we will not be the third country either, and that says everything that has to be said," Arens added.

The defense minister was asked about the evaluation that Iraq would have active nuclear arms within two years. "I do not want to confirm the evaluation of the time element," Arens said, "but there is no doubt that Saddam Husayn is continuing efforts to reach a nuclear capability."

"I hope that now, at a time when there is such a high level of awareness in the world of the potential danger from that man, an international effort will be made to see that he does not reach that stage," the minister said. "I believe that the entire world will take measures to make sure that Saddam Husayn does not have weapons of mass destruction because people understand that such weapons in his hands are dangerous, not only for Israel, but for the entire world."

Update on Intifadah Incidents 23, 24 August

TA2408135390

[Editorial report] Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew on 24 August in a page A5 report by Yizhar Be'er reports that "Defense Minister Moshe Arens yesterday announced the lifting of certain restrictions that the Civil Administration had imposed on affairs relating to daily life in the territories. The announcement was made during a meeting Arens held on 22 August with a group of 22 West Bank businessmen.

"From now on, any resident of the territories returning from abroad will be allowed to bring in a sum of money equal to 500 Jordanian dinars, without having to declare it. Until now only sums up to 300 dinars were exempt from declaration. Any resident can now ask for permission to bring in an additional 1,000 dinars.

"The validity of solvency certificates required from all residents of the territories will be extended from two to four months. Before Arens became defense minister, they were only valid for one month.

"Arens told the businessmen that the Israeli Administration has affirmed a local initiative and agreed in principle to the opening of a new bank in the territories.

"The Palestinian businessmen expressed fear that the Gulf crisis would make it difficult to export goods from the territories to the Gulf states through the Jordan bridges. Arens promised them that Israel would help them find alternative markets."

Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew on 24 August in an ITIM report on page A5 reports that "the security forces launched an investigation into the circumstances surrounding the serious injury of a Ramallah resident," adding that "Ramallah residents asserted that the wounded man had in the past been a security detainee and was not known to be a collaborator with the Israeli authorities."

Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English on 24 August in a page 20 report by Jon Immanuel and Matthew Seriphs reports that "the body of Mussa Mansara, 23, was discovered in his cell in Janin prison yesterday. He was apparently strangled by a fellow cellmate who accused him of being an informer, security sources said.

"In Nabulus, two 16-year-old youths were taken to al-Ittihad Hospital with leg wounds caused by rubber bullets, local sources said. The hospital could not be reached for comment. The IDF said that the two were treated and released from the hospital.

"The security forces sealed the home of Kufah Hamada, a resident of the Tuffah neighborhood of Gaza last night, the army said. Hamada was a member of a popular committee of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine, along with two others whose houses were sealed on Wednesday.

"An Israeli motorist shot and slightly injured an eight-year-old Palestinian girl as he was travelling through the al-Shaja'iyah neighborhood on the main coast in Gaza on Wednesday afternoon, Palestinians reported.

"The girl was taken to al-'Ahali Hospital in the center of Gaza and was released after being treated."

In a similar report by Margot Dudkevitch on page 20, Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST reports that "stones were thrown yesterday at a No. 25 bus travelling on the Shu'fat road towards Nave Ya'aqov in Jerusalem. One passenger, lightly injured in the hand, was taken to a local Magen David Adom station for treatment."

Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST adds in a report by Larry Derfner on page 20 that "a small bomb exploded yesterday before dawn at Tel Aviv's Kibbutz Galuyot train station, damaging a bus driver's shed but causing no injuries." Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew at 0900 GMT on 24 August reports that "the security forces last night demolished part of the house belonging to Ahmad Rashwan, a Khan Yunus resident suspected of being a member of a strike committee calling itself the Palestinian Ninja. The committee, a Fatah cell, cruelly murdered Arab residents. Rashwan participated in three murders, including that of a woman in an advanced state of pregnancy."

Court Rejects Petition To End Gaza Curfew

TA2008104390 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 20 Aug p 2

[Report by Dan Izenberg]

[Text] The High Court of Justice yesterday rejected a petition calling on the army to lift its permanent night-time curfew on the Gaza Strip. The court said that it was not convinced the army's reasons for imposing the curfew were wrong.

The Association for Civil Rights in Israel [ACRI] and three Palestinian residents of the Gaza Strip complained that the curfew was a punitive rather than a preventive measure and was arbitrary because it did not differentiate between quiet and turbulent areas. The 8 p.m.-4 a.m. curfew was imposed by the army over two years ago and affects the estimated 650-700,000 Palestinians living in the Gaza Strip, according to ACRI.

Attorney Nili Arad, representing the government, argued that the army had no choice but to impose the curfew to prevent night-time activity by the local Palestinian strike committees.

ACRI attorney Dan Simon said the Gaza Strip had been quiet for several months and that there was no causal connection between the curfew and actual events in the area. Simon said the army had not even temporarily lifted the curfew to test whether it actually contributed to quiet in the area.

Justices Gavri'el Bach, Dov Levin and Ya'aqov Maltz presided over the hearing.

General Strike, Incidents in Territories

TA2208100790

[Editorial report] Writing on page 12 of the 22 August issue of Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English, Matthew Seriphs and Jon Immanuel report that "troops wounded 13 people in clashes around the Gaza Strip last night, Palestinian sources reported. Some residents of al-Burayj refugee camp said that the army had increased its use of live ammunition to deal with intifada protests. Others said there was an increase in the intensity of clashes with the army, especially at al-Shati' camp." Later in the report they say that "in the al-Shati' camp, demonstrators taunted soldiers with shouts supporting Saddam Husayn." There is reportedly "support for Saddam almost across the board in the Strip, and this had increased residents' confidence in taking on the army." The Gaza journalist who reported this also said "worshippers burned American and Israeli flags at mosques during prayers last Friday."

"In Nabulus, a tear gas grenade smashed through the window of al-Hanbali Mosque during prayers Monday night [20 August], causing worshippers to rush out. Another exploded by the entrance to the same mosque in the afternoon, local sources said. No casualties were reported.

"The incidents occurred near the Nabulus casbah when there were no reported clashes in the area. The IDF [Israel Defense Forces] said it would check.

"There was a general strike in both the West Bank and Gaza Strip, called by the United National Leadership of the Intifada and by the fundamentalist Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] movement to mark the 21st anniversary of the attempt by an Australian Christian, Michael Rohan, to burn down the al-Aqsa Mosque in 1969."

"In Hebron, soldiers wounded a masked man during a clash, the IDF reported."

An ITIM [NEWS AGENCY OF THE ASSOCIATED ISRAEL PRESS, LTD.] report carried on the same page of the same issue of THE JERUSALEM POST says that "a Gazan was sentenced yesterday to nine months in prison for slapping a border policeman and shouting offensive statements." He was convicted of shouting "Saddam will burn the Jews and finish off the state" while traveling on an Egged bus from Tel Aviv to Kefar Sava last week. When the border policeman intervened, the man slapped him. The judge "said he took the offensive statement more seriously than the slap."

Tel Aviv HADASHOT on 22 August carries a front-page report by Doron Me'iri on the stabbing last night of a South African tourist in the park outside the Old City walls. The tourist said he was attacked by a man who shouted: "He is an American, he is an American!"

An unattributed report on the same page of the same issue of HADASHOT reports that a "Jewish National Fund employee was attacked yesterday with metal bars and wooden blocks by two Arabs" as he was waiting for forest laborers near Kefar Shemu'el. "He was transferred to Sheba Hospital in moderate condition" and his assailants disappeared "into the alleys of Hebron."

An ITIM report in Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew on 22 August says that "for the first time since the outbreak of the intifadah in the territories, a military commander was appointed for the Qalqilyah region.

"Lieutenant Colonel 'Amit Zayd, who had thus far served as administrative officer in the Judaea and Samaria Civil Administration, was appointed to this new post this week.

"Zayd met with members of the Qalqilyah chambers of commerce on Monday."

Survey Claims Many Children 'Hurt' by Soldiers

TA2208114190 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 22 Aug 90 p A5

[Report by Yizhar Be'er]

[Excerpt] A survey of 1,000 households in the Janin area shows that half of the children were in one way or another hurt, mostly beaten up, by Israeli soldiers.

The survey, by the Committee for the Protection of the Occupied Child headed by Orna Mer, was conducted by 20 local interviewers who visited the families and spoke to children aged 6 to 14 in Janin and its adjacent refugee camp, and in the villages of Ya'bad, Qabatiyah, 'Arrabah, Silat al-Harithiyah, and al-Yamun.

Some 379 of the children said they had been hurt by Israeli soldiers, with the highest number being registered in Janin's refugee camp and suburbs.

Of 240 children interviewed in Janin, 114 children (47.5 percent) said they had been hurt by soldiers at least once. Of those, 8 percent were hurt by gunfire, 11.4 percent by tear gas, while the rest said they had been beaten up. Two-thirds of the latter were beaten at least twice, and many of them three or four times in various situations and times. Some 21.7 percent of the children hurt in Hanin were aged six to eight. [passage omitted]

Rural Housing Permit Procedures Criticized

TA2308131390 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 23 Aug 90 p A5

[Report by Yizhar Be'er]

[Excerpts] Some 13,000 houses in the West Bank, most of them in villages, have been built without permit and their 80,000 dwellers live under the constant threat that their houses might be demolished. Nevertheless, illegal building in the West Bank continues in high gear.

These data were included in a new report on construction in the territories released yesterday by Betzelem, the Israeli information center for human rights in the territories. The study conducted by Yuval Ginbar centers on rural areas in the West Bank where the problem is particularly acute. In the urban sector, on the other hand, there are municipal planning bodies which grant building permits. In the Gaza Strip, the Israeli Army rarely resorts to the demolition of houses.

The report notes that Palestinians are not allowed to build on over two thirds of the land in the West Bank. The growth in the rural population calls for the construction of 2,300 to 2,900 new houses a year, at a time when the number of permits issued in the last two years has dropped to 400 a year. In contrast, the number of illegally built houses demolished by the authorities has risen from a few dozen a year up until the mid-1980's to over 200 in each of the years 1988 and 1989. Some 115 illegally built houses were demolished in the first half of 1990. [passage omitted]

Betzelem's check of the work of the planning and construction authorities in the rural sector in the West Bank shows that since the beginning of Israel's rule in the territories the Central Planning Office has not approved even one master plan for any village in the West Bank. "The planning considerations of the Central Planning Office and its subordinate entities are shrouded in secrecy and people approaching them are denied basic and vital information.

"The planning and construction entities in the West Bank do not do their job," Betzelem charges. "They take advantage of the far- reaching authority given them by military decrees. Among other things, these decrees bar local inhabitants from being represented in the bodies in charge of planning and construction and do away with the right to appeal stipulated under Jordanian law. These moves are not justified by international law."

According to Betzelem, the Israeli authorities pose to many inhabitants the difficult dilemma of being homeless or living under dire conditions or building themselves a house without permit and risking demolition. "At best this is a matter of serious neglect, at worse this is an intentional policy," Betzelem argues. The organization asserts that, on the other hand, planning and licensing bodies operating in Israeli settlements are efficient, sympathetic, and lenient with regard to illegal building. [passage omitted]

Reacting to the report, the Territorial Activities Coordinating Office said that the Civil Administration is currently revising the issue of construction in the territories in a bid to ease the procedures governing the issuing of building permits, both in terms of the number of permits and procedural efficiency.

Ethiopia Refuses Family Reunification Visas

TA2308101890 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 22 Aug pp 1, 10

[Report by Bill Hutman]

[Text] The Ethiopian government is refusing to grant exit visas to Jews in Addis Ababa for family reunification, a senior Jewish Agency official told THE JERUSALEM POST yesterday.

For the Ethiopian government, the Jews there are a means of getting money out of the Israeli government and Jewish organizations, he added.

The official, who recently returned from Ethiopia, said that while the Jews waiting to go to Israel in Addis Ababa live in conditions below Western standards, they receive the basic necessities, including food, medical care and housing.

The Jewish Agency, as a matter of policy, does not support them sufficiently to live above the standards of other residents in the Ethiopian capital because that might cause resentment.

While conditions are not the best in Addis, reports of Jews dying of malnutrition and disease are exaggerated, the official said.

However, Agency officials have recorded 64 deaths resulting from poor health conditions over the last three months among the Jewish population there. Those deaths, the official said, were due in large part to the drastic changes the Jews underwent when they left their villages, where many were already suffering from malnutrition and disease.

Israel's welfare efforts are slowed by massive bureaucracy, he added. He also pointed out that Ethiopia is a sovereign nation, and neither the Jewish Agency nor any other group is free to function as they wish.

"People expect a solution similar to the raid on Entebbe, but they forget what conditions we are working under," he said.

The Jewish Agency has eight staff members, including several Ethiopian immigrants, in Addis. An Israeli medical team was brought in for a short period, but now health needs are largely met by Ethiopian doctors, who the Agency has found to be, in many instances, more experienced in dealing with the local health problems.

Housing is also a major problem, with many families forced to pay high rents for small apartments. Israel is now negotiating with Ethiopia to build temporary housing, the official said, an indication that reunification of the Ethiopian Jews is not expected soon.

The official would not estimate how long it would take to get the Jews to Israel.

With regard to the thousands of Jewish converts to Christianity in Ethiopia, many drawn to Addis believing they would be helped by the Jewish authorities there, the Agency follows the letter of the law: the ex-Jews do not qualify for Israeli citizenship under the Law of Return, and therefore receive no help.

"We can't save the world." the offical said.

Trade Increases With Asian Countries

Import, Export Totals

TA2108111790 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1000 GMT 21 Aug 90

[Text] Trade between Israel and Asian countries was 17 percent higher in the first half of the year than compared to the same period last year. Exports from Israel to Asia totalled $970 million, with exports to Singapore jumping 64 percent. Imports rose by 20 percent and reached nearly $460 million.

Exports To Japan Up 38 Percent

TA2208113790 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 22 Aug 90 p B3

[Report by Tal Shahaf]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] An economic study conducted by the Manufacturers Association's foreign trade and international relations department shows that Israeli exports to Japan between 1985 and 1989 grew by a yearly average of 38 percent, and by 31 percent excluding diamonds.

Exports to Japan constitute 7 percent of Israel's exports when diamonds are included, and 2.5 percent when diamonds are excluded.

Imports from Japan increased by a yearly average of 17.6 percent between 1985 and 1989. A 26-percent drop was registered in 1989, mainly because of an $88-million decrease in car imports.

Israel's exports to Japan in 1989 totalled $756.5 million, while imports from Japan amounted to $355.7 million.

August Tourism Seen Unaffected by Gulf Crisis

TA2008103790 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 20 Aug p 2

[Report by Greer Fay Cashman]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] Despite cancellations the Ministry of Tourism reported that 30,600 tourists entered the country via Ben-Gurion Airport during the first week of August, a figure 18 percent higher than that of the corresponding period in 1989, and three percent higher than the first week of August 1987, Israel's record year for incoming tourism.

While August has so far proved to be a very good month for tourism, some hotels have begun to receive cancellations for September and October. The most common reason given is "the political situation in the Middle East." [passage omitted]

Minister to Sweden, UK To Reassure on Tourism

TA2208163890 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1300 GMT 22 Aug 90

[Text] Tourism Minister Gid'on Pat left for Stockholm and London to try to prevent damage to charter flights to Elat. Our correspondent Rina Matzliach reports that the Tourism Ministry sent information to all its offices around the world that Israel is located 1,000 km from the Persian Gulf and that Jerusalem's hotel occupancy is 77 percent which reflects the safety of tourism in Israel.

'Source' Says Iraqi Border To Reopen 24 Aug

NC2408092990 Paris AFP in English 0926 GMT 24 Aug 90

[Text] Amman, Aug 24 (AFP)—Jordan is to reopen its eastern border with Iraq later Friday to allow foreigners fleeing Iraq to enter the country, a reliable source at the Interior Ministry said.

He said the border which was closed on Wednesday would reopen at 4:00 p.m. (1300 GMT) as Jordan was willing to receive "20,000 people daily."

'Intention' To Transfer Kuwait Embassy Reported

JN2408084590 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic 24 Aug Second Edition p 1

[Text] Amman—SAWT AL-SHA'B has learned that there is an intention to move our embassy from Kuwaiti city to Baghdad in response to the decision issued by the Iraqi Government to close down all Arab and foreign embassies and diplomatic missions. The time limit for the decision ends today.

It is noteworthy that Sweden, Switzerland, India, Malaysia, and Indonesia have announced their desire to move their diplomatic missions to Baghdad in response to the Iraqi decision.

The majority of countries are expected to move their embassies and diplomatic missions from Kuwait city over the next 24 hours because of the security complications that will result from not doing so—particularly the suspension of diplomatic immunity from the embassies that do not comply with the decision.

King Husayn Returns From Yemen, Sudan Visits

JN2408072290 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 0700 GMT 24 Aug 90

[Excerpts] His Majesty King Husayn returned to the homeland from Khartoum early this morning after a short working visit to the Republic of Yemen and the Republic of Sudan. [passage omitted]

His majesty had arrived in Khartoum from Sanaa last night. Upon his arrival in Khartoum, the king held a bilateral meeting with His Excellency General 'Umar Hasan al-Bashir, chairman of the Sudanese Revolution Command Council. An expanded meeting was then held in the presence of the Jordanian and Sudanese delegations. The conferees held a comprehensive discussion of the Gulf crisis and of ways to resolve it peacefully within the Arab community. [passage omitted]

Badran Forms Committee To Handle Gulf Evacuees

JN2308181790 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1100 GMT 23 Aug 90

[Text] Prime Minister Mudar Badran today decided to set up a committee to be tasked with caring for evacuees [coming from Iraq and Kuwait] in light of the extraordinary circumstances and to honor Jordan's pan-Arab and humanitarian commitments. The committee was asked to draw up a clear picture of the expected number of evacuees because of the number of the evacuees received during the past few days and the expected developments in this regard. The committee was also asked to specify locations in which evacuees are to be accommodated during their stay in Jordan. The committee was also tasked with ensuring that these locations are provided with the necessary requirements. It was also asked to guarantee that the movement from the border area to these locations and to departure points by land, sea, and air was organized. Furthermore, the committee was charged with securing transportation and also with coordinating with the relevant diplomatic missions through the Foreign Ministry so that they can care for their nationals and organize travel procedures from the Kingdom in accordance with specific obligations. The committee will also be charged with receiving the representatives of international and regional organizations and bodies that might offer their services and assistance in this field. Moreover, the committee will be tasked with submitting a detailed daily report on the number of arrivals, their nationalities, and also on their distribution among various locations. The detailed report should also provide data on their conditions, departing evacuees, and the costs incurred by the state in caring for them.

The committee held a meeting at the Interior Ministry this morning under Salamah Hammad, secretary general of the Interior Ministry and chairman of the committee. The committee comprises a number of officials from the appropriate ministries. During the meeting, the committee reviewed issues concerning its tasks. It also discussed providing mechanisms for performing its tasks.

Hammad said: The committee has decided to establish centers for accommodating the arrivals, nationals of Arab and foreign countries, who leave Kuwait and Iraq through the Jordanian border. The committee also decided to provide these centers with the necessary services. He added: The committee has begun making contacts with concerned embassies and diplomatic missions to coordinate the process of securing means of transportion for the departure of their nationals from Jordan to their desired destinations within a specific time limit to guarantee that these centers do not get overcrowded and also to alleviate their suffering.

Hammad added: The committee also decided to contact international bodies and organizations to secure their contributions to this humanitarian effort. He said that the committee will make diligent efforts and devote all available resources to make sure that it performs its duties in the best possible manner.

King Continues Diplomatic Talks on Gulf Crisis

JN2308065390 Amman Jordan Television Network in English 1900 GMT 22 Aug 90

[Text] Jordan today witnessed a new round of political and diplomatic activity to seek ways to de-escalate and contain the Gulf crisis.

His majesty the king today received the Pakistani Foreign Minister Sahabzada Yaqub Khan. The king and Mr. Khan discussed the latest developments in the Gulf. The audience was attended by His Highness Crown Prince Hasan, the deputy premier and foreign minister, and the Pakistani ambassador in Amman.

His majesty also received the Soviet Envoy Mikhail Sytenko, and discussed the situation in the Gulf and the latest developments. The meeting was attended by his royal highness the crown prince, the deputy premier and foreign minister, and the Soviet ambassador in Amman.

His majesty the king also received the director of the PLO Political Department, Mr. Faruq Qaddumi. His majesty and Mr. Qaddumi exchanged views on efforts to exert to contain the Gulf crisis and reach an Arab solution. The audience was attended by the crown prince, the prime minister, the chief of the Royal Court, the deputy premier and foreign minister, and the Palestinian delegation accompanying Mr. Qaddumi.

Saudi Arabia Informed of September Oil Needs

JN2208202890 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 22 Aug 90

[Text] Thabit al-Tahir, minister of energy and mineral resources, has said that according to arrangements that have existed between Jordan and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia for years, Jordan has been importing an amount of oil through the tapline. In a statement to PETRA, the minister said that, according to this arrangement, the Kingdom's needs are usually specified on a monthly basis. Thus, the Ministry usually informs the tapline officials before the beginning of the month of the amount Jordan wants to cover part of its oil needs.

The minister of energy and mineral resources added that, based on the above and in accordance with this arrangement, we have informed the competent bodies in Saudi Arabia and the tapline that Jordan wants 1 million barrels next September, to be imported through the tapline, at an average of 33,000 barrels per day.

Pakistani Foreign Minister Arrives 21 Aug

JN2108180490 Amman Domestic Service in English 1600 GMT 21 Aug 90

[Text] The Pakistani foreign minister minister, Sahabzada Yaqub Khan, arrived in Amman today for a two-day visit to Jordan. He will hold talks with Jordanian officials on various regional issues and latest developments in the area. Answering a question on a possible peaceful solution to the Gulf crisis, Mr. Khan stressed the need to continue the diplomatic drive towards an end of the crisis.

Thanks Al-Qasim for Assistance

JN2208164490 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 22 Aug 90

[Text] Marwan al-Qasim, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, received in his office this morning Pakistani Foreign Minister Sahabzada Yaqub Khan, currently visiting Jordan. They exchanged views on the recent developments in the region and reviewed the possible ways to curb the escalation it is witnessing and to work out feasible and appropriate solutions to the situation.

Al-Qasim told the Pakistani foreign minister about the increasing difficulties Jordan is facing as a result of the massive influx of people of all nationalities who left Kuwait and Iraq for Jordan, and the extra burdens this places on the Jordanian economy.

The Pakistani foreign minister expressed his country's deep gratitude to the Jordanian Government for the facilities and assistance it has extended to the Pakistani nationals who came to Jordan so they can return home.

Urges 'Self-Restraint'

JN2308083790 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 22 Aug 90

[Text] Pakistani Foreign Minister Sahabzada Yaqub Khan and his delegation left Amman this afternoon after a two-day visit to Jordan. In a statement before departure, Khan said his visit to the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan gave him a better understanding of Jordan's position and its views of the crisis, especially his meeting with His Majesty King Husayn and His Highness Prince Hasan and the extensive discussion he held with Marwan al-Qasim, the deputy prime minister and foreign minister. Khan said Pakistan enjoys firm relations with Jordan characterized by trust.

The Pakistani foreign minister expressed his gratitude to the Jordanian Government for its assistance to and care for the Pakistani nationals who had arrived from Kuwait to Jordan on their way to Pakistan. He said: We appreciate the great burden Jordan is shouldering as a result of this great influx. However, we are confident that with the Jordanian authorities cooperation, the process of repatriating these nationals will be carried out with ease and great efficiency.

On the region's crisis, the Pakistani foreign minister said: This region is passing through a very dangerous phase, something which causes Pakistan extreme concern. The clouds of war are looming on the horizon. In light of this explosive situation, I visited some sisterly Islamic states to learn what is on the minds of our brothers. We would like to work with them to avoid further deterioration in this inflammable situation and in order to reach a peaceful settlement of the crisis.

Khan said: In order for this settlement to be just and lasting, it should be commensurate with the UN Charter

principles, which are also common to the Arab League and the Islamic Conference Organization.

Khan said Pakistan opposes the use of force to settle disputes. He said: Despite the current situation, we believe that there is still hope. Through the policy of wisdom and self-restraint coupled with mature management and creative diplomacy, it will be possible to avoid slipping toward armed confrontation.

Khan added that Pakistan has not spared any efforts to extend its fitting contribution toward strengthening peace and stability in this disturbed region.

Japan's Nakayama Continues Mideast Tour

Economic Aid Promised

JN2108170490 Amman Domestic Service in English 1600 GMT 21 Aug 90

[Text] A senior Japanese official accompanying Japanese Foreign Minister Taro Nakayama on his current visit to Jordan said the trip came to exchange consultations with Jordanian officials on developments of the situation in the Gulf. Mr. (Makota Yamakaka), who is the official spokesman of the Japanese Foreign Ministry said the foreign minister was briefed on Jordan's view on the Gulf crisis when he was received by his majesty the king and his royal highness the crown price. He said Japan will economically support Jordan if it is affected by the current situation. He affirmed that Tokyo will not send troops to the Gulf because the Japanese Constitution prohibits that, but he said his country might provide foreign troops massing in the area with financial aid.

Kingdom Rejects Blockade

OW2108014190 Tokyo KYODO in English 0117 GMT 21 Aug 90

[Text] Amman, Aug. 21 KYODO—Jordan has reacted negatively to a Japanese call for it to join the international economic blockade of Iraq, Japanese officials said Tuesday.

Jordan's Foreign Minister Marwan al-Qasim, in a first round of talks with his Japanese counterpart Taro Nakayama here Monday night, expressed respect for United Nations resolutions but said he hoped for a solution to the Persian Gulf crisis through talks among Arab countries.

Nakayama offered to extend Japanese economic assistance if Jordan suffers losses in abiding by U.N. resolutions, and al-Qasim expressed thanks for the Japanese offer, the officials said.

After Iraq invaded Kuwait on August 2, the U.N. Security Council passed three separate resolutions urging Iraq to withdraw troops immediately and unconditionally, banning all states from doing trade with Iraq, and declaring its annexation of Kuwait "null and void."

Al-Qasim strongly opposed the sending of a U.S.-led multinational force to the Persian Gulf region, telling Nakayama that Jordan feels a sense of crisis about the deployment of foreign troops in Saudi Arabia because places sacred to the Islamic faith are there.

The Jordanian foreign minister indicated Jordan had some understanding of Iraq's position in the Gulf situation, saying that Kuwait and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) broke an international oil cartel agreement, thereby damaging Iraq.

Jordan has maintained friendly ties with Iraq even after its invasion of Kuwait. The United States has threatened to blockade Jordan's al-'Aqabah port, which serves as an entry point for imports to Iraq.

Nakayama, in Amman on the third leg of a five-nation Middle East tour in place of Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu, will hold a second round of talks with al-Qasim and also meet with King Husayn on Tuesday before leaving for Egypt on the fourth leg.

The Japanese foreign minister, who already visited Saudi Arabia and Oman, will later go to Turkey before returning to Tokyo on Saturday.

Meets With Husayn

JN2108162390 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 21 Aug 90

[Text] His Majesty King Husayn received at the Royal Hashemite Court today Japanese Foreign Minister Taro Nakayama. During the meeting they reviewed developments related to the Gulf crisis and its various dimensions. The audience was attended by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hasan, the chief of the Royal Hashemite Court, the deputy prime minister and foreign minister, and the Japanese ambassador in Amman.

Departs 21 Aug

JN2108203290 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 21 Aug 90

[Text] Japanese Fopreign Minister Taro Nakayama left Amman this evening following a two-day visit to Jordan during which he met with His Majesty King Husayn and held talks with senior Jordanian officials on means to bolster bilateral relations. The talks also dealt with the latest developments of the situation in the Arab Gulf region.

He was seen off at Amman civil airport by Marwan al-Qasim, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, other officials, and the Japanese ambassador in Amman.

Algerian Assembly Member Arrives in Amman 20 Aug

JN2108143390 Amman PETRA-JNA in Arabic 1426 GMT 20 Aug 90

[Text] Al-Ramtha, 20 Aug (PETRA)—An Algerian National Assembly delegation led by National Assembly

member Jallul Mala'ikah [name as received] arrived in Amman via the al-Ramtha border point today on a visit to Jordan lasting several days as part of an Arabic and Islamic tour.

Mala'ikah praised His Majesty King Husayn's positions, his distinguished efforts, and his continuous endeavors on both the Arab and international levels for the sake of peace. He said: We are carrying the Algerian people's greetings to the Jordanian people.

He told PETRA that the visit was part of the Algerian National Assembly's program to find ways to solve the Gulf's crisis, end the foreign interference in the Arab territories, and lift the severe siege imposed by the United States in the name of the Security Council resolutions. He added that these issues were at the center of the delegation's Arab and Islamic tour.

He added: We are peace advocates, and that every free Arab and Muslim in the world knows that this conflicts with logic and the established principles of the UN Charter. We in the Arab countries are able to settle our problems within the Arab framework, that the Gulf issue is an Arab issue, and that those crammed into the warships should know this fact.

He also expressed his hope that the Arabs would unify their views on the foreign intervention and wondered why Security Council resolutions and the human rights principles are not implemented with respect to the occupied Arab territories and Israel's repressive measures against Arab citizens in occupied Palestine.

He added: Several National Assembly delegations have begun to tour Arab and Islamic countries to bring views closer together within the framework of the Interparliamentary Union's meetings scheduled for October. The parliamentarians are to express the seriousness of the present circumstances.

Prince Meets With Austrian, Algerian Ministers

JN2408130690 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 24 Aug 90 pp 18, 13

[Excerpt] Amman-PETRA—His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hasan received Austrian Foreign Minister Alois Mock at the Royal Hashemite Court last night. They made a comprehensive review of the Gulf crisis and its effects on regional and international developments. The meeting was attended by Salim Masa'idah, deputy prime minister and interior minister.

His highness also received Algerian Foreign Minister Sid Ahmed Ghazali. They held a comprehensive discussion of the Gulf crisis and the diplomatic efforts to contain it. The meeting was attended by Salim Masaz'idah, deputy prime minister and interior minister, and by Ibrahim 'Izz al-Din, minister of information. [passage omitted]

Algerian Minister, USSR Envoy Leave for Baghdad

JN2408131190 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1100 GMT 24 Aug 90

[Text] Algerian Foreign Minister Sid Ahmed Ghazali today left Amman for Baghdad following a two-day official visit to Jordan during which he met with His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hasan. He was seen off at Queen Alia International Airport by Culture Minister Dr. Khalid al-Karaki and Dr. Khalid 'Ubaydat, head of the Foreign Ministry's Political Department.

The Soviet leadership's envoy, Mr. Mikhail Sytenko, also left Amman for Baghdad today following a three-day official visit to Jordan during which he met with His Majesty King Husayn. He was seen off at Queen Alia International Airport by the head of the Foreign Ministry's Political Department.

Sudanese Minister Comments on U.S. Navy Action

JN2108151490 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 20 Aug 90

[Text] Sa'id 'Uthman Mahjub, minister of expatriates affairs in the Republic of Sudan [name and title as heard], arrived in Amman this evening to inspect the conditions of Sudanese citizens returning to Sudan from Kuwait via Jordan. The minister will also meet Jordanian officials to acquaint himself with Jordan's efforts to facilitate the return of these citizens to their country.

Asked by PETRA-JNA on Sudan's position on the U.S. gunboats' interception of the Sudanese ship Dungulah yesterday, Mahjub said: The Sudanese Council of Minister held a session yesterday to discuss this issue. Contacts had been held with the U.S. ambassador to Sudan and with the U.S. Administration through the ambassador. The ambassador's testimony affirmed that the Sudanese ship was denied entry into the port of al-'Aqabah until it was searched. He added that the captain rejected that measure, that the Sudanese Council of ministers condemned this behavior and officially protested to the United Nations and the Security Council, and that the Arab League and the OAU were also informed of the incident.

Women Lead March, Call for Withdrawal

JN2208181390 Amman PETRA-JNA in Arabic 1440 GMT 22 Aug 90

[Text] Amman, 22 Aug (PETRA)—The Jordanian women's committee for bolstering Arab steadfastness has addressed two memoranda today in the name of Jordanian women to the American people and President George Bush.

In its first memo, which was read out by one of its members at a news conference in the Professional Associations' complex, the committee appealed to the sons of the American people to exercise all forms of pressure on their government to prevent it from pushing its sons into

the battle arena, and to oppose all manifestations of destruction and hegemony over people's resources and destiny. The committee said that the Arab people are asking for their rights and freedom and want their children to have a secure future.

On this occasion, the committee recalled the suffering of the American people as a result of the Vietnamese war, whose victims were the youth of America and the sons of American mothers. The committee added that the Arab people will be no less determined or courageous than the Vietnamese people who, through their phenomenal determination, faced all forms of military technology and emerged victorious.

In their memo to U.S. President George Bush, the Jordanian women's committee for bolstering Arab solidarity denounced U.S. military intervention in the Gulf region and the Arabian Peninsula. They demanded the immediate withdrawal of fleets and armies from the region, so that the American soldier will not find himself in a second Vietnam. They also emphasized the Arab people's ability to make their own decisions and to manage their oil wealth.

Following the news conference, the committee organized a march, in which a large group of Jordanian women took part, from the Professional Associations' complex to the U.S. Embassy, where representatives of the committees handed in the two memos to a representative for the U.S. Embassy in Amman.

Jordanian-American Friendship Society Dissolved

JN1808160690 Amman PETRA-JNA in Arabic 1420 GMT 18 Aug 90

[Text] Amman, 18 August (PETRA)—Senate Member Muhammad Kamal, head of the Jordanian friendship society with the American people, has decided to dissolve the society since it cannot operate in this hostile atmosphere in which the U.S. Government is attacking the hopes and rights of the Arab people.

This came in a statement issued by the head of the society in which he referred to the U.S. Government's aggressiveness toward the Arab people, full support for Israel, stance on Arab problems in the Gulf, deployment of troops in holy Arab places, and attempts to rally the rest of the world to attack Iraq.

Preparations Continue for Hostage Keenan's Release

Iranian Diplomat Cited

NC2408094590 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0900 GMT 24 Aug 90

[Text] REUTER cites an Iranian diplomat in Beirut as saying that the release of a Western hostage is imminent. He said that the issue of the release of all European hostages has ripened, and one will be released very soon.

The IRANIAN NEWS AGENCY reported yesterday that hostage Brian Keenan is expected to be released within hours.

The Iranian diplomat said that the American hostages will remain in detention for some time, and held Washington responsible for the delay in their release. He added that the U.S. Administration bears responsibility for the delay in the release of the American detainees.

Lebanese, Syrian Efforts

NC2308115790 Paris AFP in English 1149 GMT 23 Aug 90

[Text] Beirut, Aug 23 (AFP)—Preparations were underway Thursday in Lebanon and Syria for the "imminent" release of a European hostage, expected to be Irish schoolteacher Brian Keenan, sources close to Iranian and Syrian circles said here.

The official Iranian news agency IRNA reported early Thursday that Mr. Keenan would "most likely" be set free within the next few hours, citing an "informed source" in a dispatch from Beirut.

A Lebanese figure with close ties to the government in Damascus said the "necessary preparations (for the release of a hostage) were started 36 hours ago."

Informed sources said a meeting took place Wednesday in Damascus between the head of Syria's military intelligence in Lebanon, General Ghazi Kan'an, and Iran's ambassador to Syria Hasan al-Akhtari.

A pro-Iranian source here told Agence France-Presse that Tehran recently gave "orders" to its diplomatic personnel in Beirut and Damascus to prepare for the release of a European hostage in coordination with Syrian authorities.

Iran has also had recent contacts with clandestine groups holding Westerners in Lebanon in a bid to ensure a "rapid release" of one of the prisoners, the source added, without elaborating.

Pro-Iranian groups are believed to be holding 13 Western hostages in Lebanon, including Mr. Keenan, who also has British nationality.

Mr. Keenan, 37, was seized by gunmen on a West Beirut street on April 11, 1986 near the campus of the American University of Beirut where he taught English. His abduction was never claimed.

Lebanese Forces Positions Come Under Fire

NC2308123890 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1115 GMT 23 Aug 90

[Text] Two 60-mm mortar rounds fell on the Lebanese Forces [LF] positions in Sinn al-Fill at 1315 today. A B-7 rocket fell in the area of the al-Sayyidah church. The LF positions in the Salome area came under bursts of machine gun fire from the positions of 'Awn's units. The LF did not return the fire.

Two Killed in Iqlim Al-Tuffah Fighting

NC2308051590 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0430 GMT 23 Aug 90

[Text] Two people were killed and several others wounded in the continuing intermittent skirmishes in Iqlim al-Tuffah.

Afghanistan

Resistance Appeals to Iraq To Withdraw Forces

BK2408015690 Hong Kong AFP in English 1837 GMT 23 Aug 90

[Text] Islamabad, Aug 23 (AFP)—The Afghan resistance on Thursday expressed fears that the gulf crisis may weaken Islamic support for the mujahidin. Burhanuddin Rabbani, a minister in the Pakistan-based resistance government, said in a statement that the turmoil in the gulf would divert attention from their struggle which was "close to victory." The mujahidin are fighting to oust the Soviet-backed government in Kabul.

Mr. Rabbani appealed to Iraq to withdraw its forces from Kuwait and solve the crisis through Islamic and Arab mediation. He said Afghan Muslims would rush to the defence of holy places in Saudi Arabia upon the request of Riyadh. Saudi Arabia has been a principal source of financial support to the mujahidin.

Defense Minister Receives Soviet Delegation

LD2308180790 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 23 Aug 90

[Text] General Mohammad Aslam Watanjar, minister of defense of the Republic of Afghanistan, today met with the parliamentary delegation of the Yalta Federation of the Soviet Union, which is visiting Kabul on the invitation of the Central Committee of the Democratic Youth Organization of Afghanistan. During the meeting, the defense minister spoke about the activities of the country's armed forces in independently defending the homeland and also spoke about the politico-military situation of the country, the process of realization of the policy of national reconciliation, and the peaceful measures of the Republic of Afghanistan. During the meeting medals of the Republic of Afghanistan were distributed to delegation members by Gen. Mohammad Aslam Watanjar.

According to another report, this morning the delegation met with Colonel General Sayd Azam Sayed, commander of the National Guard, in his office. During the meeting the delegation was informed about the work of the National Guard personnel, and gifts which had been provided by the command were presented to the delegation members.

Premier Receives Elders of Nomad Tribes

LD2308091690 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0440 GMT 23 Aug 90

[Text] Kabul, Aug. 22, BAKHTAR—Fazl Haq Khaliqyar, prime minister of the Republic of Afghanistan received today elders and representatives of nomad tribes at Gulkhana palace of prime ministry, reports prime ministry press office to BAKHTAR.

Several representatives of the nomad tribe on behalf of their colleagues described outstanding Khaliqyar's government as an example of the outcomes of national reconciliation and a crossing bridge towards peace and they pledged not to withhold any coopertion for the realization of the policy line of the government and assistance to the process of transition from war to peace and put forward the problems of nomad tribes.

Addressing the participants, the prime minister recalled the outstanding role of the nomad tribe in the development of national economy. He added that the imposed war has hurted the nomad people who are entitled to every assistance. The prime minister pointed out that the government will take the necessary actions for the removal of the problems of their nomad brothers. He also instructed the organs concerned to meet the requirements of the nomad tribes.

Paper Reports Rebel Attacks in Four Provinces

BK2008120990 Islamabad THE PAKISTAN TIMES in English 20 Aug 90 p 9

[Text] Islamabad—Mujahidin chased back a communist regime attack in a bid to station their posts there, a Mujahidin source reported. [sentence as published] The said forces were defeated on Aug 15. One tank was destroyed and all those on board were killed, the source added.

According to another report, Mujahidin in an ambush captured two communist regime soldiers in Balamar area of Paghman district on Aug 12.

Meanwhile, Mujahidin under the command of Mirza Mohammad Nasiri attacked another regime force which was going from Pol-e Khomri District of Konduz Province, on Aug 12. They killed Lal Mohammad, a high ranking officer, along with 13 soldiers and injured 18 others. Sixteen armed militiamen and soldiers were captured alive and huge material losses were also inflicted on the forces, the report added.

In retaliation, communist regime jet fighters and artillery forces targetted the Mujahidin's positions and residential areas around Pol-e Khomri District destroying a number of local houses and inflicting human and material losses to the local people, the report further added.

Fourteen militiamen and soldiers were captured along with 18 Kalashnikovs and a huge quantity of ammunition when Mujahidin attacked Darai Bala's posts in Jowzjan Province, on Aug 11.

Kabul regime forces wanted to attack Mujahidin's positions in Kokcher area of the capital city of Samangan Province. Thirteen soldiers and militiamen were killed and a number of others were injured, when they were confronted with the counter attack of the Mujahidin, on Aug 12. Three Kalashnikovs were also captured alongwith one military vehicle in the attack, the report concluded.

India

Gujral Addresses Parliament; Reviews Crisis Tour

Rules Out Mediation Role

BK2308130290 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 23 Aug 90

[Text] India has ruled out any mediatory or good offices role for itself in the Gulf crisis, while calling for immediate defusing of tension in the area. This was announced by the external affairs minister, Mr. I.K. Gujral, in the Lok Sabha a shortwhile ago. Making a statement on his visit to Moscow, Washington, Baghdad, Kuwait and Amman, he said President Saddam Husayn of Iraq and other leaders have assured to provide the Indian nationals in Kuwait better travel facilities and sort out their other problems. An Iraqi aircraft will fly every day from Basra to take Indian nationals to Amman from where Air India will pick them up.

Stating that the primary reason of the tour was to ensure the welfare, security, and well-being of the large Indian community in the Gulf, Mr. Gujral told the house that the government is trying to send a shipload of food to alleviate the sufferings of the people caught in the current crisis. Mr. Gujral informed members that the discussions during the talks did not reveal much of a meeting ground but efforts for deescalation of the crisis must continue. He expressed fears that countries like Pakistan and Bangladesh, who have decided to send troops to the area, may use it as an excuse for further militarizing themselves. This will pose a threat to the security of the whole region.

On the oil front, the minister said that at Moscow the Soviet Government agreed to seek alternative sources for supplying oil to India. The U.S. Secretary of State, Mr. James Baker, told Mr. Gujral at Washington that food and medical supplies to Kuwait going by sea will not be stopped.

A similar statement was made by Mr. Gujral in the Rajya Sabha also. Soon after the minister made the statement, the whole house complimented him with the thumping of desks for the action taken by the government of India for the welfare of Indians settled in the region.

Discusses Repatriation Efforts

BK2308163290 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 23 Aug 90

[Text] India says it does not propose to assume a mediatory or good offices role in the Gulf crisis but called for continued efforts to defuse tension in the area. Making a statement in both the houses of parliament on his visit to the Gulf countries, the Soviet Union, and the United States, the external affairs minister, Mr. I.K. Gujral, said New Delhi is considering the possibility of sending a shipload of food from India to alleviate the suffering of the people of all nationalities caught in the current crisis. Mr. Gujral, who had extensive discussions with the Iraqi president, Mr. Saddam Husayn, and other leaders said all efforts are being made to evacuate the stranded Indian nationals from Kuwait by air and sea. An Iraqi aircraft will fly every day from Basra to Amman for the benefit of Indian nationals. Mr. Gujral said while all arrangements have been made for the repatriation of Indian nationals on a regular basis, the present circumstances should not be a cause for panic or hasty departure. The external affairs minister stated that the primary reason of his tour to the Gulf was to ensure the welfare, security, and well-being of the Indian community staying there. Mr. Gujral said measures have been taken to strengthen the Indian Consulate General at Basra to look after the welfare of the Indian community more effectively and facilitate repatriation. He said this has been done in view of the little option but to comply with the Iraqi Government's decision to close all foreign embassies in Kuwait from tomorrow. Referring to his talks in Baghdad, he said the Iraqi deputy prime minister had agreed to issue instructions to verify if any Indian national had been detained by mistaken identity and to release such persons immediately. He said a total of 507 Indians were detained in Kuwait on the first day of the Gulf crisis, but they have all been released and have left for India. Mr. Gujral informed the members that the discussion during his tour did not reveal much of a meeting ground. However, efforts toward de-escalation of the Gulf crisis must continue.

The external affairs minister, in his 20-minute long speech, gave a detailed account of the steps taken to help Indians and reiterated the Indian position on some of the major aspects of the Gulf crisis. He said New Delhi is against the use of force in any form to settle interstate differences and called for the soonest possible withdrawal of Iraqi forces from Kuwait. At the same time, he said, India disapproved the unilateral action outside the framework of the United Nations by any country or group of countries to enforce the mandatory sanctions decided by the Security Council.

The Lok Sabha will have a discussion tomorrow on the external affairs minister's statement.

Giving clarifications in the Rajya Sabha, the minister said in the changing situation nothing definite could be predicted, but diplomatic parleys are continuing. He said he is in touch with the current NAM [Non Alignment Movement] chairman Yugoslavia, and will be attending the NAM foreign ministers' meeting in Belgrade on the 10th and the 11th of next month, where the issue is likely to figure. The minister informed the members that the Philippines foreign minister is coming to New Delhi tomorrow for discussions. He announced that compensation of one lakh rupees will be paid to the next of kin of the two Indian nationals killed in the cross fire in Kuwait. He said rehabilitation of those repatriating back home is a tremendous task and called upon all political parties and the people to mobilize efforts as the government alone may not have large funds needed for the purpose.

Several members demanded more flights for repatriation of Indian nationals and immediate dispatch of medical and food supplies to Kuwait.

378 Stranded Indians Return on 'Special' Flight

BK2408083490 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0730 GMT 24 Aug 90

[Text] Another batch of 378 Indians who were stranded in Kuwait arrived in Bombay from Amman this morning by a special Air India flight. This is the eighth special flight operated by Air India in the Bombay-Amman-Bombay sector. So far, 2,918 Indian nationals have been brought by the special flights. Air India will operate special Boeing services from Riyadh from today onward. This will help evacuate the Indian nationals who have arrived in Saudi Arabia on their way back home. Air India has also chartered an airbus from the Indian Airlines for this purpose. The airbus will be operated between Amman, Dubayy, and Trivandrum till the end of this month.

As already reported, arrangements are being made to operate direct flights from Basra in Iraq which is very near to Kuwait. This will reduce the hardships of the Indians stranded in Kuwait, who have been for a long time now undertaking a journey by road to Baghdad.

Meanwhile, Indian missions in Jordan, Saudi Arabia, and Iraq are working around-the-clock to make all arrangements for the safe passage of those Indian nationals who want to return home. Measures are being taken to strengthen the Indian consulate general at Basra to look after the welfare of the Indians, who are in transit, and facilitate their repatriation.

Commentary Views Government Stand on Gulf Crisis

BK2408121990 Delhi General Overseas Service in English 1010 GMT 24 Aug 90

[O.P. Agarwal Commentary]

[Text] The Gulf crisis following Iraq's march into Kuwait and the imposition of what is called interdiction of Iraq by the United States has plunged the entire world in great peril. There has been no development in the West Asian region that has posed such dire threats to all concerned since the Suez crisis in the fifties. That there is an emergency situation for India—no less than the country directly involved—has been highlighted by the external affairs minister, Mr. I.K. Gujral's, lightning visit to Moscow, Washington, Amman, Baghdad and Kuwait.

The statement made by the external affairs minister in the two houses of parliament on the situation in the Gulf and his visit to world capitals focusses on two prime aspects. The first [word indistinct] relates to India's own concern centering around the Gulf crisis. The second is the wider aspect pertaining to the world-wide threat that the course of events in this region poses. India's own concern on this crisis following its rapid escalation as a result of massing of U.S. troops and its air and naval formations with counter-reaction by President Saddam Husayn of Iraq pertains firstly to the safety and welfare of a large Indian populace in Kuwait as well as in Iraq. The other and no less vital issue for India is of ensuring the continuing flow of oil supplies that India has bought from Iraq and Kuwait. These supplies are critical for the Indian economy.

There are about 172,000 Indians working in Kuwait, and in the Gulf as a whole about 1.2 million Indians altogether. The recent visit to Iraq by Mr. Gujral has been most satisfactory in bringing succor to the stranded Indians in Kuwait and Iraq as well as assuring them all help by way of repatriation of the hard-pressed groups among them in order of priority. The Indian external affairs minister's presence in Baghdad brought a helpful response from the Iraqi president and government and the authorities in control of the administration in Kuwait. Mr. Gujral's presence in Kuwait has assured cooperation and help by the authorities to Indian nationals. In the prevailing situation in the crisis zone, this applies to all aspects, including availability of food and medicine, affected by the blockade imposed by the United States. Mr. Gujral has specially commended the Indian Association leaders and other Indian community volunteers in Kuwait who have banded together in this hour of crisis to share food and render mutual help. This is the spirit of Indianness which lends friends in the hour of dire need. In this context, the external affairs minister had occasion to bring to U.S. Secretary of State Mr. James Baker's attention to the hardships caused by the American blockade being extended to food supplies and medical supplies. Mr. Baker maintained that these humanitarian supplies going by sea will not be stopped. But the situation as of now remains uncertain.

The gravity of the problem of continued oil supply from the Gulf to India, as Mr. Gujral pointed out in parliament, rests on the fact that over 40 percent of the Indian imports, and this includes supplies contracted with the Soviet Union, originate in Iraq and Kuwait. The Gulf crisis could, therefore, cause severe strain on the Indian economy if this oil flow was to be disrupted.

The Indian position on the crisis, as Mr. Gujral puts it, was based on a single principle—non-use of force in any form in inter-state relations. India has told Iraq that it regretted Iraq's march into Kuwait and has sought withdrawal of Iraq from Kuwait. At the same time, India expressed disapproval of unilateral action outside the framework of the United Nations by any country or group of countries such as the United States and the western powers to enforce the mandatory sanctions decided by the Security Council. India has also disapproved the induction of foreign military forces in this region. About the decision of Pakistan and Bangladesh to send troops to the Gulf, Mr. Gujral struck a note of caution that this could be used as an excuse for further militarization of those countries posing a threat to the security of the whole region. While India did not propose to assume a mediatory or good-offices role, it held the

view, according to Mr. Gujral, and I quote, of the possibility that exists for the deescalation of the crisis before it engulfs the whole world, unquote. Any measure for deescalation would have India's support. India continues to hope that the international community will see the wisdom of making a determined effort to defuse the tension and restore peace and stability in the region through constructive efforts. Both the Arab League and the Nonaligned Movement have an important role in this regard.

Malaysia To Provide Crude Oil Supplies

BK2308163490 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 23 Aug 90

[Text] Malaysia will supply 750,000 tons of crude to India from October this year to overcome the oil shortage arising from the Gulf crisis. A memorandum of understanding has been signed by the two countries providing for an additional supply of half a million tons on a contract basis. India has been in touch with OPEC countries which have expressed their readiness to increase crude output to meet the worldwide shortfall.

Reserve Bank Permits Dealing in Gulf Currencies

BK2308095890 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 23 Aug 90

[Text] The Reserve Bank of India [RBI] has not issued any directive to authorized dealers to stop dealing in Kuwaiti Dinar or any other Gulf currencies. The deputy finance minister, Mr. Anil Sastri, told this in the Rajya Sabha today during question hour. He said in view of the political uncertainty in the Middle East, it has been reported that internationally, Gulf currencies are not being accepted. Mr. Sastri said, however, with a view to solve the problems of Non-Resident Indians returning from the Gulf countries, the exchange counters of the authorized dealers at international airports have been authorized by the RBI to permit conversion facilities for Gulf currencies equivalent to 5,000 rupees per passport.

Troops, Police Raid Golden Temple on Search

BK2408064390 Hong Kong AFP in English 0615 GMT 24 Aug 90

[Text] Amritsar, India, Aug 24 (AFP)—Heavily-armed paramilitary troops and police Thursday raided the Golden Temple, the Sikhs' holiest shrine, following reports that wanted militants were hiding in the complex, officials said Friday. Some 100 paramilitary Central Reserve Police force troopers and Punjab State police stormed a guest house inside the marble complex around 10:00 p.m. local time (1630 GMT) to arrest the militants, police said. The raiders crashed through several rooms, meant for Sikh pilgrims, of Guru Ram Dass Sarai, but found no "unauthorised person" hiding inside, Amritsar City police chief Sanjiv Gupta said.

Thursday's raid on the 400-year-old shrine is the first since May 1988, when army commandos laid a 10-day seige to the Golden Temple in an operation codenamed "Black Thunder" to flush out militants. Some 36 hard-core militants had died in the 1988 raid during which separatists and troops fired at least 60,000 rounds in a marathon gunbattle. Intelligence sources in Amritsar, the hub of a Sikh separatist campaign, said Friday that the police called off its raid Thursday night after the suspected militants turned out to be police spies posted there by the security forces.

"We had specific information of the presence of terrorists in the guest house," Mr. Gupta said, adding that they must have escaped before the raid. But the Sikh Gurdwara Managing Committee (SGPC)—the administrators of the Golden Temple—claimed the troopers took away at least three people from one of the rooms of the shrine. They did not elaborate.

SGPC Secretary Manjit Singh Calcutta said neither he nor any other temple officials were informed in advance of the police action. He described the operation as a "deliberate attempt to defame the shrine." "There is no question of an intrusion by suspected militants in the temple as all the entry points to the shrine are guarded by security forces and even Sikh devotees are frisked before they are allowed to enter," Mr. Calcutta said. The raid "could have a tempering effect, especially at a time when the temple has re-started attracting large number of devotees after lapse of many years," he said. The SGPC would lodge a protest with the government over what he termed "an attempt to hurt the feeling of the Sikhs," Mr. Calcutta said.

Indian army soldiers backed by tanks and mortars had also attacked the Golden Temple in June 1984 to flush out militant leaders in an operation codenamed "Blue Star" in which 650 people, including firebrand Sikh separatist leader Jarnail Singh Bhindranwale, were killed. At least 1,524 people have died so far this year in a Sikh militant campaign for a homeland in Punjab, where thousands of troops have been deployed to crush the movement which gained momentum after 1984.

Singh To Head Proposed National Security Council

BK2408091290 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 24 Aug 90

[Text] The government has decided to set up a national security council to be headed by the prime minister. It will take a comprehensive and coordinated view on all matters relating to the country's security. The ministers of defense, finance, home, and external affairs will be members of the council and other union ministers and chief ministers of states will be associated as and when necessary. The council will have a separate secretariat assisted by a strategic core group comprising representatives of the three services and the ministers concerned.

Announcing the government decision in the Lok Sabha today, the prime minister, Mr. V.P. Singh, said the need for such a structure has been felt necessary in the context of the repeatedly changing external environment and the

internal situation in the country. He said the council will endeavor to evolve an integrated approach to policy-making of security matters by taking into account both military and non-military threats. It will help for identification of strategies and optimise the country's efforts in defense, internal security and foreign affairs. The council will also make a medium and long-term assessment to serve as a perspective for shaping government policy. Later, the prime minister laid on the table of the house a resolution setting up the national security council.

Tamil Nadu Urges Delhi Involvement on Sri Lanka

BK2308131990 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 23 Aug 90

[Text] The Tamil Nadu Assembly has passed a unanimous resolution calling upon the Sri Lankan Government and the LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] to stop fighting and hold negotiations to find a peaceful solution to the ethnic problem. The resolution also urged the Government of India to ensure that the Sri Lankan Government does not take advantage of such a cease-fire to buy arms from abroad and strengthen itself.

Replying to the debate on the resolution in the House today, the chief minister, Mr. M. Karunanidhi, categorically stated that no training camp for the Sri Lankan militants was functioning in Tamil Nadu.

Delhi Decries Sri Lankan Air Attack on Jaffna

BK2308145290 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1430 GMT 23 Aug 90

[Text] India has expressed its deep anguish at the aerial attacks by Sri Lankan air force on heavily populated areas of Jaffna. A spokesman of the External Affairs Ministry told newsmen in New Delhi this evening that such attacks have resulted in a large number of civilian casualties. He said that the government of India has once again called upon all parties concerned to cease hostility and resume negotiations for a political solution.

Students Protest Mandal Report's Implementation

Block Delhi Roads

BK2308164090 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 23 Aug 90

[Text) Vehicular traffic in Delhi and some other parts of the country was disrupted today, following agitation by students to protest against the implementation of the Mandal Commission [on reservation of jobs to socially-backward class people] report. In the capital, students squatted for hours at almost all main road intersections from the morning, causing hardship to commuters.

In Amritsar, students of medical college and dental colleges boycotted classes. The antireservation stir continued in Rajasthan as three major cities—Kota, Bharatpur, and Ganganagar observed a bundh [strike] today.

Disrupt Parliament

BK2408091690 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0730 GMT 24 Aug 90

[Text] The members in the Lok Sabha today expressed their concern over the ongoing student agitation on the reservation issue. Raising the matter immediately after the house met for the day, a BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party] member said that the agitationists have been blocking the road and even several members of parliament could not reach the house. A CPI-M [Communist Party of India-Marxist] member suggested that an all-party meeting may be called to discuss the issue which, he said, has a dangerous potential. He also urged the government to hold negotiations to resolve the reservation issue. The CPI [Communist Party of India] and Congress-I members also expressed their concern over the agitation. The speaker, Mr. Rabi Ray, agreed that there have been some difficulties for the members and staff of the Secretariat to reach the parliament. He said that the matter may be considered later and the question hour should not be interrupted.

Our correspondent says the police resorted to tear gas on several points around the parliament house to disperse the agitationists. All roads in the area have been cordoned off and the vehicular traffic diverted.

Fighting Continues on Disputed Kashmir Border

BK2408014690 Hong Kong AFP in English 1826 GMT 23 Aug 90

[Text] Jammu, India, Aug 23 (AFP)—Indian and Pakistani troops were still fighting sporadic gunbattles on the disputed Kashmir border, but casualties if any are not known, official sources said here Thursday. The two armies had been using small arms to fire at each other in the Indian-held Kashmir state's Punch and Rajauri sectors for the last three days, the sources said.

The sources accused the Pakistani Army of provoking the clashes by opening fire from across the Line of Actual Control (LAC), which divides the Indian- and Pakistani-controlled parts of Kashmir. The reported fighting contradicted a Foreign Ministry announcement here Wednesday that all was quiet on the Indo-Pakistan border since Tuesday evening, two days after heavy artillery duels began.

Defence sources in Jammu, Kashmir's winter capital, said Wednesday that 11 Indian and 10 Pakistani soldiers had been killed in artillery exchanges in the Kupwara sector on the frontier. India and Pakistan have fought three wars, two of them over kashmir.

The official sources said a Pakistani fighter jet also intruded into Indian airspace twice on Monday, and disappeared after circling over the border region of Samba for some 15 minutes. It was reportedly the first air violation by Pakistan since March.

Foreign and Defence Ministry officials here could not be immediately reached for comment. Tension on the Indo-Pakistan frontier in Kashmir has increased following Indian charges that Pakistan was arming Muslim separatists fighting for a homeland in the Indian state of Jammu and Kashmir. Islamabad has refuted the charge, but supports the separatist campaign which has left about 1,500 dead this year.

Smuggled Heroin Worth 600 Million Rupees Seized

BK2008052290 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0435 GMT 20 Aug 90

[Text] In Rajasthan, in one of the biggest hauls, smuggled heroin worth 60 crore rupees on the international market was seized near Jodhpur on Saturday [18 August] in a joint operation by the Central Customs and the Narcotics Department. Four persons alleged to be carriers of the drug have been arrested.

Iran

'Informed Source' Says Keenan To Be Freed 24 Aug

NC2408110490 Paris AFP in English 1101 GMT 24 Aug 90

[Text] Tehran, Aug 24 (AFP)—Irish hostage Brian Keenan will be set free Friday evening, after four years of captivity in Lebanon, an informed source close to the Iranian Government said.

He will be handed over to Syrian authorities in Beirut, the source told AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE.

Khamene'i Says 'No Place' for U.S. in Gulf

LD2308220990 Tehran IRNA in English 1820 GMT 23 Aug 90

[Text] Tehran, Aug. 23, (IRNA)—The leader of the Islamic revolution Ayatollah 'Ali Khamene'i said here Thursday that the U.S. itself was an aggressor and therefore could not thwart an aggression. "Those who had persuaded Iraq to attack Iran and helped it cannot claim to be opposed to aggression. They only think of their own interests and if an aggression serves their interests they will support and assist the aggressor," Ayatollah Khamene'i said.

The ayatollah made the remarks in a speech to a group of homecoming Iranian war prisoners. "Islamic countries should be aware that the claims of the U.S. and its lackeys that they are opposed to aggression and want to protect the rights of the nations are false and unfounded," he said.

The leader warned "America and its allies now seeking to tighten their footholds in the Persian Gulf should know that this region is the bastion of Islam and there is no place for them...the Persian Gulf is an Islamic center and its wealth belongs to Muslim nations."

However, Ayatollah Khamene'i made it clear that the Islamic Republic was opposed to aggression, no matter who the perpetrater was. The enemies of the Islamic Republic are now unveiling their helplessness and disappointment in the face of Islam, 12 years after the rule of Islam prevailed in Iran but thir hostility towards the Islamic Republic has not yet subsided.

President Says U.S. Gains From Iraqi 'Blunder'

LD2308113390 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 23 Aug 90

[Text] President Hashemi-Rafsanjani this morning received Mr. Belkhadem, deputy speaker of Algeria's national Assembly, and his entourage. During this meeting Mr. Belkhadem, who is in Tehran for consulations on the recent developments in the Persian Gulf, stated his government's views on the opposition to the occupation of Kuwait and the presence of foreign forces in the Persian Gulf region. He asked the Islamic Republic of Iran to take steps, by utilizing its particular position in the region, toward a peaceful solution of this crisis.

Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani reiterated his opposition to the occupation of Kuwait. While expressing concern at the presence of foreign forces in the Persian Gulf region, he said: The Iraqis made a big blunder and the arrogants have benefited from this blunder. The United States, which was seeking an opportunity to extend its presence in this sensitive region of the world, rapidly dispatched its military forces to the region, which was a predictable matter.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani Conducts Friday Prayers

LD2408121390 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 24 Aug 90

[Text] On the threshold of the glorious birthday anniversary of the fifth star of the skies of the imamate and velayat, His Holiness Imam Muhammad Baqir, peace be on him. The devout and faithful people of our country today were massively present at the sites of the Friday prayers. Along with welcoming the arrival of the brave freed POW's to the Islamic homeland, they held the immortal Muhammadan rites.

In Tehran, meanwhile, the mass of the Hezbollah ummah participated in the Friday prayers services at Tehran University and the adjacent streets under the leadership of Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Hashemi-Rafsanjani.

Marking the start of Government Week, the president revived the memory of the martyrs Raja'i and Bahonar [president and prime minister assassinated in 1982]. He praised them, saying: The martyrs Raja'i and Dr Bahonar were among those who had been immensely active since the very beginning of the Islamic resurgence. Then, following the victory of the Islamic revolution, they were provided their valuable services to various positions. These two great martyrs have a special position in the history of Islam and the Islamic revolution.

Explaining the performance of the government during the past year, Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani referred to figures and statistics in the economic, cultural, and social sectors and stressed that he was satisfied with the performance of the government during that period, because the government, exercising sound management, has been able to remove, to some extent, many difficulties and bottlenecks.

Stressing that government policy has been based on guidelines drawn up by the imam of the ummah, the president said: We are not subject to conditions set by others. Today Iran and the regime of the Islamic Republic of Iran hold the initiative in the region and in the world and everywhere related to Iran. One of the results is that today we view these great developments in relation to the countries of the region. The victories already achieved have had a major role in bringing them about.

Referring to economic problems, Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani offered figures and statistics. Emphasizing the increase in the gross national product, he said: During that period the government tried to harness inflation by absorbing liquidity in the hands of the people and by expanding production at industrial plants.

He added: Through absorbing some 200 billion tumans in liquidity and by transferring that amount to the industrial sector it has been possible for industrial plants to work at an acceptable level of capacity. As for the agricultural sector, he referred to wheat production, saying: Thanks to efforts made by the farmers this year, so far approximately 1.9 million tons of wheat has been purchased in excess of the farmers' own needs. Now it is estimated that by the end of the current year [year ending 20 March 1991] this figure would rise to over two million tons. One must say, therefore, that such a production level has been unprecedented in recent years.

The president then referred to the fall in the budget deficit which in 1987 stood at 1,449.5 billion rials. The president added: Thanks to efforts by the government, the budget deficit fell to 1,138.8 billion rials in the year ending 20 March 1990. Meanwhile, during the first four months of the current year the budget deficit has amounted to 250 million rials which, in the view of the economists, is very good.

Stressing that the government has printed no new banknotes this year, the president referred to the downward trend of inflation and said: We reduced inflation, which was close to 29 percent in 1989, to 17.45 percent in the year ending 20 March 1990. We hope through higher productivity and other efforts made in the industrial and agricultural sectors that the figure for inflation will continue to fall.

Concluding the first sermon, Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani stressed that the transportation and provision of construction materials will improve in the country. He said: Government policy aims to expand the supply of construction materials by a large margin.

In the second sermon once again Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Hashemi-Rafsanjani condemned Iraq's aggression against Kuwait. He expressed anxiety over the presence of foreign forces in the sensitive region of the Middle East and said: Aggression against Kuwait cannot be accepted on any account. We do not concur with aggression against the territory and people of Kuwait. We support what is right. Iraq must leave Kuwait.

The president stressed: We do not accept the disruption in the region nor do we accept any changes in the coastline of the Persian Gulf. Condemning the presence of foreign forces in the Persian Gulf region, he said: We do not mind if aggression is blocked; but it is better that, in order to prevent aggression, it is handled by the countries of the region, not by troop movements by arrogant countries.

The acting Tehran Friday prayers leader praised UN and Security Council moves and said: We will act on the decison of the Security Council; we respect that. The presence of foreigners, however, could have serious consequences for the region on a long-term basis. Therefore, we believe that as soon as Iraq sees the light of wisdom and pulls back its forces from Kuwaiti territory, foreign forces must leave the region.

In an analysis of regional developments he said: In viewing these recent developments, the world grasped several facts, one being that the Iraqis are expansionists. Another was that regional governments are primarily arrogant, and that the Persian Gulf region is a sensitive area where wise men should carefully monitor problems. More important than anything else, the world ultimately realized that the Islamic Republic of Iran is very strong and that its people are patient and resisting.

In the second sermon Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani referred to the victory of the Islamic Republic of Iran in realizing the objectives of UN Security Council Resolution 598 and the 1975 agreement. He said: These victories are the results of the people's resistance under the rule of His Holiness Imam Khomeyni—may his dust be sanctified. It is the result of the constant fighting and self-sacrifice of the Armed Forces, the crusading forces, the blood of martyrs and the disabled, and the sacrifices of their families. We have no doubt, therefore, that God's promises to those who have patience will be granted.

Greeting the victorious return of the POW's, the president said: The freed POW's are valuable forces; drawing on the wealth of reserves which they have acquired through years of resistance and hardship one can benefit from them for construction of the country in all fields.

Larijani Weighs Probability of Gulf Conflict

LD2308152290 Tehran IRNA in English 1435 GMT 23 Aug 90

[Text] Tehran, Aug. 23, IRNA—Iraq should take the initiative if it wants to deal an effective blow on the foreign forces in the region, a prominent Iranian politician believes.

"An Iraqi blow, though it may prompt reaction, would encourage the U.S. towards a political compromise because Washington is very vulnerable against casualties," advisor to the foreign minister, Mohammad Javad Larijani wrote in an article for the Persian daily ETTELA'AT printed today. He said the occupation of Kuwait has plunged the region and the world into a highly critical situation, and that the Iranian people are more exposed to the developments than anbody else.

"Therefore they (Iranians) would naturally ask: Will a massive military clash occur in the region? Or the belligerent parties would agree on a moderate solution after some braggings? Will the Iraqi regime survive? Will the U.S. and British hegemony in the region take a new form?"

What is clear, Larijani went on to say, is that no quick and immediate success exists for the either side, therefore, each side should reap the fruit in proportion to the amount it invests, and not more.

He said political and economic pressures against Iraq are now significant, and could continue even for one year. "The West would be able to tolerate the resultant economic crisis, and may even benefit from it in certain cases."

"But what about Iraq? How far would it be able to survive these pressures? Two months, six months, one year or more? Westerners have apparently estimated the Iraqi tolerance at three or four months, and at most six months with an optimistic probability.

"If the U.S. is satisfied with an (Iraqi) withdrawal from Kuwait, there would be no reason why it should resort to military operation, but in case it decides to use force, it would wait until Iraq is weakened under the pressures.

"However, if the Americans consider a stage beyond the return of the al-Sabah, they would quickly add military pressure to the other pressures against Iraq, for which they would only need to wait until the preliminary and logistic aspects of the operation are completed.

"Is a military clash likely?, And if so, how? Who will start the clash?," Larijani questioned, noting that if the Iraqis decide to be the initiators they would naturally begin with their strongest point, i.e. ground attacks, and the Americans would launch massive air attacks.

"My opinion is that the likelihood of a military attack against Iraq is not slim, and if Iraq wants to deal an effective blow on the foreign forces in the region, it should take the initiative," Larijani said.

Paper Views U.S. Benefits in 'Post-Saddam Era'

LD2308102790 Tehran IRNA in English 0955 GMT 23 Aug 90

[Text] Tehran, Aug. 23, IRNA—An English-language daily Thursday described as "sheer simplemindedness" to think that peace and stability would return to the Persian Gulf region if the U.S. succeeds to "topple Iraqi President Saddam Husayn".

In its editorial "What's the Great Satan Up To?", KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL noted that the post-Saddam era would be an ideal situation only for Washington. The EC countries, Japan, a united Germany and NATO members would realize "their economies are under U.S. hegemony in case Washington triumphs in implementing its plot," wrote the article.

After a change of government in Iraq, the daily noted, major portion of oil from the Persian Gulf oil fields would become under direct control of the U.S. It stressed that if the situation is going to be undesireable for the EC, Japan, the Soviet Union and others, it would be a horrible one for the Islamic Republic of Iran.

"Iran which has launched a systematic reconstruction program, the first five-year plan currently being implemented, will become entirely helpless if its oil revenues are controlled by the U.S.," added the paper. Meanwhile, it noted, Washington would have the final say in OPEC on all matters concerning oil production and prices.

In that case, the daily said, not only Iran's economy would be more or less dependent on the "whims of the occupants of the White House" but its "political independence will suffer a similar fate." Pointing to a Jordanian newspaper warning that a war in the region would not be a war of Iraq but the war of millions of Arabs and Muslims, the article stressed, "Muslim nation of Iran will certainly not remain a silent spectator when the flames of such a war begin to engulf the Persian Gulf region."

The daily concluded by saying that Iran had fought for Islam against Iraqi forces backed by the Great Satan, Kuwait's al-Sabahs, and Saudi al-Sa'uds for a decade. "We can resume doing so when Islam is endangered and with God's help will once again come out triumphantly..."

Tehran Paper Views U.S. Presence in Gulf

NC2008161090 Tehran KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL in English 11 Aug 90 p 6

[Unattributed commentary: "Iran Can Ill Afford To Remain Indifferent"]

[Text] It is true that two years after Iran consented to abide by U.N. Security Council's Resolution 598 Iraq has still not signed any accord with Iran. However the ceasefire between Iraq and Iran has remained effective and both sides have practically demonstated that they want peace. After the exchange of letters between the presidents of the two countries and the meeting between their foreign ministers, it was made known that President 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani and Iraqi Presient Saddam Husayn will meet to settle the matter once and for all within the framework of the mutually accepted U.N. Resolution 598.

Iran was right in condemning Iraq's aggression against Kuwait. It also acted properly in expressing its disapproval of Iraq's annexation of Kuwait. But why Iran stopped short of strongly objecting to the U.S. intervention in the region is a question for which one does not find any satisfactory answer.

One should not forget that Saddam certainly has perpetrated the worst of crimes against Iran and that at the behest of the imperialist powers. At the same this brute told the truth when he said that some of the Arab regimes in the region are the agents of the United States. It was also Saddam who said that oil prices should be raised and saw to it that it happened in a short time.

But the day the U.S. forces landed in Saudi Arabia the world oil market dealers, realizing that the biggest oil reserves in the world were in the custody of the U.S., effected a steep decline in oil prices. Is this to the benefit of Iran and other OPEC member countries?

Under what international law or sanctions of a world body has the U.S. deployed 50,000 of its troops and the armament of its mighty war machine in Saudi Arabia? If the U.S. claims that it has done so as per request of the Saudi government, the question that can be asked by Iran and other Persian Gulf states is that on what authority has the Saudi regime done so without taking into consideration inherent damages of this act to the stability of the region?

U.S. officials, fully aware that their action in deploying troops in Saudi Arabia is objectionable, are trying to muster global support. They are endeavoring to mask their unjustified action by making other nations participate by sending their troops and warships to the region so that Washington can call it a multinational action against a country, Iraq, that may attack its southern neighbor. But Iraq has said and keeps on saying that it has no intention of taking any action against Saudi Arabia with which it has signed various treaties.

Iraq has repeatedly claimed that the case of Kuwait was quite different. Kuwait historically was a part of Iraq and should be restored, so claims Baghdad. Iraq is also not off the mark when it says that the small nations now existing in the Middle East were purposely created by the imperialist powers to weaken the Muslim Ummah. Saddam Husayn is for once telling the truth when he says: "The Croesus of Kuwait and his aides became the obedient, humiliated, and treacherous dependents of that foreigner (the U.S.). What took place on August 2 was inevitable, so that death might not prevail over life, so that those who were capable of ascending to the peak would not be brought down to the abysmal precipice, and so that corruption and remoteness from God would not spread to the majority as a result of need and poverty after the corrupt minority has distanced itelf from God, values, books and disciples."

Although it is difficult for Iranians to stomach Saddam talking of God, this is exactly what we in this country have been saying and because of this outlook were made to pay a heavy cost. It was because of this stance of ours that a war was imposed on us. And it is because of this perspective, lately adopted by Iraq, maybe in repentance for its past misdeeds, that the world has turned against it.

It would be a great folly if Iran directly or indirectly joins the foes of Iraq at this stage. It would be a great error if Iran wants to remains an apathetic spectator while the Great Satan, no matter under what pretext, wants to take full control of the oil wells in Hejaz [Saudi Arabia].

Let's hope that the statement made by officials travelling with U.S. Secretary of State James Baker on Thursday that Syria and Iran might make unspecified military moves to help deter Baghdad is false. But the truth is that the said officials would perhaps not dare to put it so specifically if what they said was not based on some behind the scene understanding. "Keep an eye on what Syria and Iran do in terms of deployment," one official advised without elaboration.

We strongly believe that Iran should make Iraq understand that it is as opposed to U.S. military presence in the region as Iraq is. This can be easily accomplished and a number of instrumentsare in Iranian hands in this regard.

Although Iran has not welcomed the invasion of Kuwait and rejected the notion of its annexation to Iraq, it must be kept in mind that this Iraq-Kuwait contretemps is basically the feuding of two war-time allies. Iraq bore the brunt of its aggression against Iran and Kuwait paid some of the bills. When the fighting ceased the wily Kuwaitis thought it prudent to keep a war weary Iraq cash strapped by over-producing and thus keeping oil prices low. They miscalculated and now have lost their throne.

The American presence in the region, though ostensibly positioned to restore the al-Sabahs and protect the Al Sauds, is in reality dedicated to removing all obstacles in the way of cheap and abundant oil, irregardless of the effects on the producer countries. If hostilities break out the Americans will attempt to topple Saddam Husayn. If they succeed, Tripoli will be the next target. Nobody in the region, least of all the Iranians, will be dictated to from Baghdad. But at the same time, 4,000 Saudi princes backed by the entirety of U.S. military might is an even more ominous possibility.

Commentary Views Possibility of U.S.-Iraq Deal

NC2008044790 Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English 12 Aug 90 p 3

[M. Firozi commentary: "How Far Will the West Allow Iraq To Go Beyond the Line?"]

[Text] Iraq's attack, occupation and annexation of Kuwait in the past week was in fact Saddam's attack on the interests of the West, but it was completely outside the predictions and analyses of the regional and international observers.

The West has used all its diplomatic powers in reaction to this aggression but has so far not used the military option. And today with the end of the cold war, the West's actions against Iraq have been faced with complete silence by the East. The extensive military presence of the U.S. and certain NATO allies in the Persian Gulf and Saudi Arabia, which has been unprecedented since the Vietnam war, have brought serious crisis and tensions to the region. But the question today is where does the West draw its "red line" against Iraq? Is it on Iraq's borders with Kuwait or Iraq's borders with Saudi Arabia? According to reports published in the last few days in the U.S. we are informed that the huge U.S. military presence is for protection of Saudi Arabia's territorial integrity and sovereignty. Moreover on Friday, the U.S. Secretary of State James Baker III announced that NATO will defend Turkey's territorial integrity and this defense will be based on the principle of NATO's joint defense pact.

The question to be asked here is: Does Baghdad intend to launch an invasion of Saudi Arabia or Turkey? Whereby the Americans declare themselves as the defenders of these two nations? [sentence as published] The fact is that in the past few days a military giant has been made out of the Iraqi army. Realistic military observers believe that at present the Iraqi army lacks the power to attack or occupy either Saudi Arabia or Turkey. The Iraqi Army, due to Baghdad's enmity with all its neighbors except Jordan, is dispersed. A major part of this army is posted at the borders with Iran, which is still in the Kurdish populated areas in northern Iraq. And due to the tensions in the Kurdish populated areas in northern Iraq and increasing tensions with Turkey, Iraq has been forced to use part of its armored forces in these regions. And on the west, enmity between Damascus and Baghdad continues as in the past few years, and some of Iraq's ground forces are stationed on those borders, as was the case when Iraq was fighting with Iran. With respect to these facts can Iraq occupy Saudi Arabia, with its vast and dry deserts which enquire [as published] powerful logistics, as easily as it occupied Kuwait? According to military observers, if Saddam does so he will have to face a fate similar to that of Napoleon and Hitler in the vast Russian countryside.

Moreover, it should not be forgotten that Iraqi ground and armed forces which suddenly attacked Iranian soil when the Iranian army and IRGC [Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps] were not prepared, succeeded in penetrating only 80 kilometers into Iranian soil. And within one and a half years they were inflicted with severe blows by the Iranian army. The only factor which tilted the balance between Iran and Iraq to an equal position from a position in favor of Iran during the last months of the imposed war was Iraq's extensive use of chemical weapons and its relatively strong air force which had been equipped by the Soviets and the French.

Therefore, with respect to Iraq's military power it should be accepted that at this point Saddam's military objective is not Saudi Arabia at all, but is merely Kuwait. In fact Kuwait was such a delicious bite that Saddam could hardly resist it and it will keep Saddam occupied for some time. Therefore there was no great need for the extensive U.S. military presence in Saudi Arabia to protect this country, except that the West intended to enter into extensive military action to force Iraq out of Kuwait and in fact to draw its "red line" with Iraq in the Iraq-Kuwait borders. It would have been better if it had entered into action in the framework of a U.N. force. If the West merely wanted to impose a naval and economic embargo against Iraq to pressure it to withdraw from Kuwait, then with respect to the world's economic structure, profiteering by Western companies and experiences of the past few decades, it is clear that such a boycott will become weaker and ineffective every day while Iraq's hold over Kuwait will stabilize.

In principle Saddam's tactic at this stage is to dampen the crisis and buy time to stabilize his conquests, and to wait for rifts to occur among the Western powers over the crisis. Saddam should not be compared with Fidel Castro of the 1962 missile crisis with the U.S. In that case the U.S. was confronted with a specific ideology which wanted to export its thinking to all Latin American countries; but Saddam is merely a politician whose only aim is to achieve more power, and for this aim he is ready to use any tool. In other words it is not imaginable [word as published] that after some time Saddam will enter into a deal with the West. It should not be forgotten that Saddam lacks a definite ideology and history has also shown that the U.S. does not remain committed to any principle but in fact deals with issues on a daily basis according to its needs.

The presence of U.S. National Security Adviser Robert McFarlane in Tehran in Sept. 1986 with a Bible signed by Ronald Reagan is an example of this type of policy. At that time the White House leaders despite all their ideological enmity with the Islamic Republic, were forced to come to terms with Iran. If no further military conflagration occurs in the region, who can guarantee that tomorrow a special envoy of President Bush will not appear in Baghdad with another Bible and cake—with the difference that this time Bush's representative will be welcomed, unlike what Tehran did with McFarlane? Perhaps when this time comes there may be no need for a "red line" to be drawn between Iraq and the West!!

Passenger Ship Returns From Kuwait 23 Aug

LD2308123690 Tehran IRNA in English 1100 GMT 23 Aug 90

[Text] Bushehr, Aug. 23, IRNA—Passenger ship 'Iran-Hormuz 24' with all its crew returned from Kuwait and anchored in Bushehr Port Thursday morning.

Iran-Hormuz 24 with more than 70 passengers on board and 26 crew members had set off for Kuwait two days before the Iraqi August 2 invasion of Kuwait.

The sea link between Iran and Kuwait, which had come to a halt due to 1980-1988 Iraq-Iran war, had only been reopened three months ago.

Number of Arrivals From Kuwait Reaches 48,000

LD2308130390 Tehran IRNA in English 1059 GMT 23 Aug 90

[Text] Ahvaz, Khuzestan Prov. Aug. 23, IRNA—With the arrival of new groups of Iranians from Kuwait Thursday morning, the number of people who have so far fled Kuwait and crossed into Iran through Shalamcheh, on Iran-Iraq border since Sunday reached 48,000.

So far, eight Iranian nationals have died of being exposed to excessive heat on their way to Iran. Return of the Iranian nationals from Iraqi-occupied Kuwait is expected to continue until August 28.

Kuwaiti Foreign Minister Meets Hashemi-Rafsanjani

LD2308112290 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 23 Aug 90

[Text] Kuwaiti Foreign Minister Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Jabir al-Sabah, who arrived in Tehran last night, was received by president, Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani, this morning and submitted a written message from Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Sabah. During this meeting, while presenting a report on the events which led to the occupation of Kuwait, he said: I sincerely offer my congratulations to the Iranian nation and government for the Islamic Republic of Iran's [IRI] recovery of its just rights, the return of its territory on the basis of the legal and unchanging 1975 (Algerian) treaty and also the return of the POW's to their homeland and families. He added: What you gained proved the definite victory of principles and commitment to morals and legitimate rights.

He also expressed regret for Kuwait's past stances and the concluding statement of the Persian Gulf Cooperation Council Information Ministers, and said: That statement was the fruit of Iraq's wrong actions.

During this meeting, our country's president, Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani, while reiterating that the IRI will always move by observing the determined principles of the IRI system, said: The stand of the Islamic Republic regarding the region and what occurred in Kuwait is the same and unchangeable, and Iran demands the withdrawal of the Iraqi forces from the territory of Kuwait and the return of stability.

While expressing concern for the presence of foreign forces in the Persian Gulf, our country's president stressed the need for solving regional problems with the countries of the Persian Gulf region.

Ends Visit, Departs

LD2308183690 Tehran IRNA in English 1630 GMT 23 Aug 90

[Text] Tehran, Aug. 23, IRNA—The Kuwaiti Foreign Minister Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Jabir al-Sabah left here Thursday evening at the end of a one day visit to Tehran, during which he handed a message from the Amir of Kuwait to President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani.

Before departure he told IRNA in an interview that Iran's stance on the Iraqi occupation of Kuwait was "principled and in line with international regulations." He added "We do not expect anything more from Iran."

"We tried to settle the issue within the scope of the Arab world but Iraq paid no attention to the messages of the Arabs and other states, and has so far rejected any mediation," al-Sabah added.

On the stance of his country on the Iraq-Iran war, the Kuwaiti foreign minister admitted that "what happened in the past was a mistake." He said he was going to join the Kuwaiti amir at his headquarters in Saudi Arabia and that he would pay a visit to Moscow next week.

Earier in the day, Sabah met with his Iranian counterpart 'Ali 'Akbar Velayati where he termed as "incorrect" the political stance taken by Kuwait and other members of the (Persian) Gulf Cooperation Council on regional issues during the Iraq-Iran war.

The Kuwaiti minister reiterated that Iraq's acceptance of the 1975 border treaty with Iran, its troop withdrawal from Iranian territories and release of POWs was "a great victory for the Islamic Republic." He also called for all-out cooperation between Persian Gulf littoral states and the Islamic Republic, whose role in the stability and security of the region is noteworthy.

Velayati wished for a speedy restoration of calm and stability to the region and expressed hope that the regional countries would solve their problems free from the presence of foreign powers.

Aqazadeh To Hold Talks With OPEC Official

LD2308114190 Tehran IRNA in English 1020 GMT 23 Aug 90

[Text] Tehran, Aug. 23, IRNA—Oil Minister Gholam Reza Aqazadeh is to leave for Vienna, Austria next Sunday for consultations with OPEC Conference President, Algerian Oil Minister Sadek Boussena.

"This visit is a positive response to the OPEC conference president's call for exchange of views on current situation in the world oil market," Aqazadeh told IRNA here Thursday.

Editorial Warns of Increased Saudi Oil Output

LD2308125190 Tehran IRNA in English 1057 GMT 23 Aug 90

[Text] Tehran, Aug, 23, IRNA—An Iranian daily said Thursday that the Saudi plan to increase its oil output would not only escalate the present tension but would create fresh economic problems.

Tehran Times in its editorial said that the U.S. was behind Saudi decision. It added that in the light of the strategic oil reserves of the Western countries and the existing 180 million barrels of floating stocks, there is no need for an increase in the OPEC oil output to make up for the stoppage of Iraqi and Kuwaiti oil production.

The English daily stressed that the OPEC members must preserve their unity and respect its decisions. "OPEC's importance and power drives from this very respect of its members for its decisions," said the daily adding that otherwise the resulting chaos would definitely lead to OPEC's impotence in determining the oil output and prices which is what the industrialized countries desire," said the daily.

It added that the "petro-related motives" form the basis of West's policies towards regional nations and "all the problems in this part of the world boil down to oil." Stressing that the Saudi move is against regional interests, the editorial warned that even if the present crisis comes to an end the region will face problems on economic unity.

Seventh Batch of POW's Returns From Iraq

LD2308113590 Tehran IRNA in English 1048 GMT 23 Aug 90

[Text] Qasr-e Shirin, Bakhtaran Prov., Aug. 23, IRNA—The seventh batch of the freed Iranian prisoners of war (POW's), numbering 1,500 arrived in Iran through the Khosrawi border point Thursday morning.

A new agreement between Iran and Iraq on daily repatriation of 6,000 POW's from both sides, went into effect today. The remaining 4,500 POW's will be repatriated later today either through Khosrawi border or by planes.

The group were handed over to the Iranian officials under the supervision of the representatives of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and were transferred to quarantine in Bakhtaran and Islamabad-e Gharb.

In a reciprocal move, 1,500 Iraqi POW's were handed over to the Iraqi Government officials Thursday morning.

Some 7,500 Iranian POW's have so far arrived home through the Khosrawi border point since last Friday when the repatriation of the POW's started.

Jordanian Parliamentarians Arrive on Visit

LD2308130790 Tehran IRNA in English 1208 GMT 23 Aug 90

[Text] Tehran, Aug. 23, IRNA—A Jordanian parliamentary delegation arrived here Thursday on a five-day visit of its own accord.

The delegation consisting of parliamentarians sympathizing with the Islamic revolution, was greeted at Mehrabad Airport by Hojjat ol-Eslam Mohammad 'Ali Taskhiri, deputy chief of the Islamic Propagation Organization.

While in Tehran, the Jordanian MPs will meet Foreign Minister 'Ali 'Akbar Velayati, Majlis Speaker Hojjat ol-Eslam Mahdi Karrubi and members of the Guardian Council.

Velayati Urges Islamic Unity

LD2308164190 Tehran IRNA in English 1611 GMT 23 Aug 90

[Text] Tehran, Aug. 23, IRNA—The Jordanian people hold the Islamic Revolution in reverence and favor the resumption of diplomatic ties between the two countries, a group of Jordanian parliamentarians told Foreign Minister 'Ali 'Akbar Velayati here Thursday.

The delegation consisting of Muslim members of parliament arrived here this morning on a five day visit of its own accord.

A Jordanian parliamentarian said the Islamic Revolution has made it clear that the U.S. is the great Satan and leader of arrogant forces.

"America has held a grip on holy Islamic lands," he said in reference to the deployment of American troops in Saudi Arabia. "And for this reason the holy sanctuaries (in Mecca and al-Madinah) should be run by Muslims, not the Saudi regime which has rendered great services to the U.S."

Another Jordanian MP [member of parliament] lauded the Islamic Republic for its success in overcoming all difficulties through resistance. He also said that the biggest danger threatening the region was the presence of American forces in the Persian Gulf, adding that America has got a chance to besiege all holy sanctuaries under the pretext of Iraq's invasion of Kuwait.

Velayati blamed the massive presence of arrogant forces in the region on the excuse of Iraqi seizure of Kuwait on August 2 and said "it is therefore incumbent upon all Islamic forces to oppose aggression on a country while trying at the same time to drive foreign forces out of the region."

Velayati Receives Algerian Parliamentarian

LD2308164690 Tehran IRNA in English 1455 GMT 23 Aug 90

[Text] Tehran, Aug. 23, IRNA—Visiting Algerian parliamentarian Abdulaziz Bel Khadim said here Thursday

that American and British military forces were in the Persian Gulf to safeguard their own interests and "get hold on all regional states."

In a meeting with Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati, Khadim, vice-speaker of the National People's Assembly, expressed hope "the Islamic Republic by using its influence and position will play a key role in settlement of the crisis."

Velayati vowed "We will continue our consultations with Islamic and Arab countries, hoping to find a practical way out of this disastrous situation."

He expressed regret that the Iraqi occupation of Kuwait had provided the Americans with an opportunity they had been looking for to strengthen their military build-up in the region.

Rafsanjani, Yaqub Khan Discuss Gulf Crisis

LD2008121190 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 20 Aug 90

[Text] Mr. Sahabzada Yaqub Khan, the foreign minister of Pakistan, who is currently visiting Tehran at the head of a delegation, was received by President Hashemi-Rafsanjani this morning.

In the meeting, at which foreign minister Velayati was also present, Mr. Sahahbzada Yaqub Khan conveyed the warm and fraternal greetings of Mr. Ghulam Ishaq Khan, the president and also the prime minister of Pakistan, and congratulated the Islamic Republic of Iran [IRI] for its remarkable achievements. He said: I am extremely happy to be extending my sincere congratulations on the realization of the just stands adopted by the IRI for which you have displayed earnest endeavours throughout the past years. He then praised the decisiveness and courage of Iranian officials and the people in the face of the obstacles ensuing from the heartrending earthquake, and said: The Iranian nation, with its decisive moral which constitutes one of the spiritual characteristics of this great nation, has gained worldwise admiration.

Continuing his remarks, the foreign minister of Pakistan submitted a report to Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani on the latest developments inside Pakistan and in the region, as well as on the Afghan and Kashmir issues, and the Iraqi onslaught against Kuwait. He praised the principle stands adopted by the IRI with regard to the Afghan and Kashmir issues.

Reiterating the need for maintaining extensive and joint cooperation between Iran, Pakistan, and Turkey in order to establish stability and security in the region, Mr. Sahabzadeh Yaqub Khan added: We hope that the three countries of Iran, Pakistan, and Turkey, and the regional states will cooperate and employ diplomacy and coordination in order to establish stability in this sensitive region and so that the region would not be dependent on any foreign power, and hence its fate be left in the hands of the governments and nations of the region.

President Hashemi-Rafsanjani, in his turn, having expressed his gratitude for the warm greetings of the president and the prime minister of Pakistan, stressed the necessity of expanding and deepening relations between the two Islamic and neighbor countries of Iran and Pakistan. He remarked: We are grateful to the Government and the nation of Pakistan for the assistance which they rendered during the earthquake.

Expressing his concern at the presence of foreign forces in the Persian Gulf, Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani said: The existing conditions in the region cause concern, and no precise predictions can be made in that connection.

Reiterating the need for the regional states to safeguard the security and stability of the region, our country's president stressed the necessity of maintaining cooperation between the countries of Iran, Pakistan, Turkey, and the regional states.

Concluding his remarks, Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani expressed the hope that the brother country of Pakistan would be able to stride toward its development with greater unity and cohesion.

1500 POW's Return From Iraq 24 Aug

LD2408115490 Tehran IRNA in English 1050 GMT 24 Aug 90

[Text] Khosrani border, Bakhtaran Province, Aug. 24, IRNA—Another batch of released Iranian prisoners of war numbering 1,500 arrived here Friday morning bringing to 21,000 the number of POW's freed so far on both sides. The group were welcomed by Director General of the Red Crescent Society Seifollah Vahid Dastjerdi and ranking civilian and military officials.

They were transferred from Khosravi border point to Eslamabad-e Gharb, Bakhtaran and Tehran in 40 buses. Meanwhile, the governor general of Iraq's Diyala Province accompanied by a group of military and executive officials of that country met with Iranian foreign ministry officials here Friday morning.

The Iraqi officials inspected the procedure of POW's' repatriation and in an interview with reporters expressed the hope that exchange of POW's would be accelerated in accordance with the agreements reached between the two countries.

*New Conditions for Students Studying Abroad

90AS0280A London KEYHAN in Persian 19 Jul 90 p 1

[Text] Iranian students studying to earn master's and doctor's degrees abroad, without taking advantage of student foreign exchange facilities, may be covered under scholarships by the Ministry of Culture and Higher Education if they have studied at least one year in one of the accredited academic institutions and have earned a 3.5 average out of a possible 4.0.

In this regard, Engineer Vae'zi, the deputy for student affairs of the Ministry of Culture and Higher Education, stated: The applications of those whose grade point average is below 3.5 will also be considered and, in general, all students who qualify will be allocated foreign exchange and there will be no restriction in this regard.

Vae'zi added: Granting scholarships to Iranians residing abroad who do not take advantage of foreign exchange at government rates is due to the need for centers of higher education for teachers and also the dire need for national organizations to educate experts.

*IRI To Purchase Atomic Reactor From China

90AS0280D London KEYHAN in Persian 19 Jul 90 p 4

[Text] The Atomic Energy Organization of Iran seeks to buy atomic reactors from China. The desired reactor is a small version and the said organization intends to utilize it for research activities. The contract for the purchase of the said reactor was signed by the Nuclear Industry Organization of China and the Atomic Energy Organization of Iran about the end of June.

According to a report by the economic weekly MEED, published in London, the Atomic Energy Organization of Iran intends to install the purchased reactor from China in the Atomic Research Center in Esfahan. In a part of its report, the weekly MEED stated that there is no information about the technical characteristics of the reactor purchased from China.

The said publication added: "From 1979 the Atomic Energy Organization of Iran had placed the purchase of 30 megawatt reactor for research purposes at the top of its medium-range plans." MEED wrote: "In the mid-60's the Tehran University purchased and installed a very small reactor for research purposes. This reactor is still used for experimental and training activities."

In another part of its report, the said publication wrote: "Before the revolution and formation of the Islamic Republic in Iran, the government had planned for the construction of at least 20 atomic power stations with the production capacity of 24,000 megawatts in various parts of the country by the middles of the 1990's. For this purpose, the German firm of Kraft Worche Union was tasked with the installation of two atomic reactors in Bushehr. Over 85 percent of the installation operations of these two reactors had been completed before the Islamic Revolution. [Also], the Atomic Energy Organization was preparing the preliminary work for the installation of two atomic reactors in Ahvaz with the participation of French [companies]."

The weekly MEED added: "After the Islamic Revolution, the Atomic Energy Organization of Iran canceled the scheduled program for the establishment of 20 atomic power stations. By the middle of the 1980's, this organization announced that it wished to complete the Bushehr atomic power plant installation operations. However, existing information indicates that the German company, Kraft Worche Union, has still not showed any willingness to proceed with this program. Apparently, the issue of providing the expenses for the implementation of this program has been added to the present problems."

*Council of Guardians Returns Bill to Majles

90AS0280B London KEYHAN in Persian 19 Jul 90 p 2

[Text] The Council of Guardians returned to the Majles, for review and correction, the bill for the integration of law enforcement forces of the Islamic Republic. This law was passed by the Islamic Consultative Majles on 30 Khordad [20 JUN]. [The Council] proclaimed it to be contrary to the Constitution in four instances.

The Council of Guardians has justified the move by saying that the issue of "safeguarding the achievements of the revolution," "confrontation with moves against the Islamic Republic regime," "intelligence follow-ups on activities to overthrow the regime," and "safeguarding the principles of the revolution and its achievements" have been, according to the Constitution, stated as duties of the Revolution Guards Corps and the unified organization of law enforcement forces cannot be tasked with it.

According to the Council of Guardians, approval of the guidelines for the organization of the law enforcement forces of the Islamic Republic, which has also been tasked to the Security Council, is outside of the qualifications of this council and contrary to Principle 138 of the Constitution.

The bill for the integration of the law enforcement forces of the Islamic Republic, which contains the integration of the Revolution Komitehs, National Police, and National Gendarmerie, and the formation of a unified law enforcement unit, has faced numerous opposition in the Majles, but it was finally passed and referred to the Council of Guardians.

Brigadier Seyyed Reza Niknezad, who last month opposed the integration of the Revolution Komitehs into the National Police and National Gendarmerie and the formation of the law enforcement forces of the Islamic Republic by calling it contrary to principles 145 and 172 of the Constitution of the Islamic Republic, was accordingly removed from his post and was replaced by Colonel Seyyed Amanullah Mortazavi who was promoted to the rank of Second Brigadier.

*Members of Four Majles Committees Designated

90AS0337A Tehran KEYHAN in Persian 9 Jul 90 p 2

[Text] At yesterday's meeting of the Majles commissions on industry, mines, oil, and post and telegraph and power, members of the Speaker's Council were named in accordance with Article 38 of the Majles Internal Guidelines, as follows:

A. Mines and Industry Commission

- Chairman: Engineer Mostafa Mo'azanzadeh
- First vice-chairman: Engineer Asadollah 'Abedi
- Second vice-chairman: Engineer 'Ali Mohaqar
- Expert: Engineer Seyyed Abualhasan Ha'erizadeh
- First secretary: Engineer Seyyed Reza Nowruzzadeh
- Second secretary: Engineer Esma'il Deliri

B. Oil Affairs Commission

- Chairman: Seyyed Jalil Seyyedzadeh
- First deputy chairman: Hamad Farzpur
- Second deputy chairman: Bahram Tajgardun
- Expert: Ahmad Nateq-Nuri
- First secretary: Davud Haj Naseri
- Second secretary: 'Abdol'azim Khaza'i

C. Post and Telegraph and Power Commission

- Chairman: Engineer Mohammad M'azi
- First deputy chairman: Engineer Gholamreza Heydari
- Second deputy chairman: Engineer Mohammadreza Tavasoli
- Expert: Engineer Hamid Chitchiyan
- First secretary: Ahmad Kharestani
- Second secretary: Engineer Seyyed Hasan al-Hoseyni

D. Culture and Higher Education Commission

- Chairman: Dr. Mohammad Sa'id Taslimi
- First deputy chairman: Seyyed Rasul Musavi
- Second deputy chairman: Dr. Seyyed Asadollah Razavi
- Expert: Dr. Najafqoli Habibi
- Secretary: Engineer Ahmad Rahbari
- Secretary: Engineer Mohammad Akbarzadeh

*New Appointments in Interior Ministry

90AS0337B Tehran KEYHAN in Persian 10 Jul 90 p 17

[Text] In a decree from Hojjat ol-Eslam 'Abdollah Nuri, minister of the interior, new political and security deputy governors-general were appointed in Hamadan and Hormozgan Provinces, along with five governors.

The ISLAMIC REPUBLIC NEWS AGENCY reports that Seyyed Ebrahim Azgisu was appointed political and security deputy governor-general for Hormozgan Province and Mas'ud Soltani was appointed political and security deputy governor-general of Hamadan Province. 'Abbas 'Asgarzadeh-Rabti, Seyyed Yahya Hashemi, Seyyed Yusef Sana'i, Hasan Rashidi, and Jalal Rasuli were appointed governors of Jadid Nikshahr, Darab, Saravan, Bandar-e 'Anzali, and Bukan, respectively.

*More New Appointments Announced

90AS0337C Tehran KEYHAN in Persian 1 Aug 90 p 4

[Text] By order of Dr. Mohammad Hoseyn 'Adeli, director general of the Central Bank, Dr. Mohammad Mostajer-Haqiqi was appointed a member of the Acting Council and administrative deputy of the bank.

The Central Bank Public Relations Office also reports that by order of the director general of the Central Bank, Taqi Najafiyan was appointed adviser to the chief on executive affairs.

By order of Morad'ali Shirani, director of physical training and recreation for the Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs, Hasan Hamidi was appointed chief of the National Worker Cultivation Council and assumed his duties.

*Mehdi Hashemi Group Warned About Provocations

90AS0337D Tehran KEYHAN in Persian 1 Aug 90 p 3

[Text] Mashhad—23 July—Provocations by the remnants of Mehdi Hashemi's gang are being monitored by the Ministry of Intelligence and law enforcement forces and if these people are seen committing any kind of counterrevolutionary acts, they will be dealt with.

This was announced by Judge Hojjat ol-Eslam Razini of the Mashhad special clerical courts. He added: Of the remnants of Hashemi's gang, there are people whose activities and provocations are being monitored.

He noted that his holiness the imam (peace be upon him) took a strong position with regard to Mehdi Hashemi's gang. Their influence was so strong that if the imam had not dealt with it during his lifetime, it would not have been possible to deal with this gang after his passing.

According to the imam (may God be pleased with him), Mehdi Hashemi was sought as a murderer and as an employee of SAVAK [secret police under shah's regime] and assumed the guise of a revolutionary.

Speaking with reporters in Mashhad, the chief of the nation's special clerical courts said in another portion of the interview that the special clerical courts were formed on the order of the imam (may God be pleased with him) to deal with clerical pretenders who abused their vocational position. He said that his holiness the imam (may God be pleased with him) was not willing to have clerical pretenders inflict damage on society. He emphasized: Files on clerical pretenders are dealt with more quickly and decisively by special clerical courts.

He said: Currently about fifty cases per month about various clerical pretenders are heard by special clerical courts nation-wide.

The religious magistrate for special clerical courts noted: Dealing with various clergymen about all kinds of political and financial matters and abuses is the responsibility of the special clerical courts; these courts specialize in clerical violations.

Elsewhere in the interview Hojjat ol-Eslam Razini said that the establishment of special clerical courts by his holiness the imam (may God be pleased with him) was a vital step for the nation. He said: These courts help to

attain justice in society so the people will know that no one may abuse his vocational and social position in the country by committing violations.

Hojjat ol-Eslam Razini, religious magistrate for special clerical courts and chief of the Judicial Organization for the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran, discussed the handling of files on defendants in the Armed Forces. He said: All types of crimes committed during military service or by the police forces in performing their military service will be dealt with by the Armed Forces courts. The chief of the Judicial Organization for the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran explained that the Army Tribunal and Punishment Court Law was passed in 1319 [21 March 1940-20 March 1941]. He said: The new Armed Forces Tribunal and Punishment Court Law has been approved by the judiciary and submitted to the Council of Ministers, and will be sent to the Majles for final approval.

*Rafsanjani Comments on Mohtashemi Accusations

90AS0282A London KEYHAN in Persian
26 Jul 90 pp 1, 11

[Text] In the wake of 'Ali Akbar Mohtashemi's attack on measures approved by the Assembly of Experts and the changes that have been made to the procedure for determining the competence of Assembly of Experts nominees, on Monday this week, the first of Mordad [23 July], Hashemi-Rafsanjani called opponents of the Assembly of Experts traitors and said that he would not tolerate their activities.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani made this threat at a gathering of Friday imams and clergymen. He said:

If a person or persons think of weakening this sacred organization, it will be considered treason, and it must not be tolerated. 'Ali Akbar Mohtashemi's attack on the Assembly of Experts was characterized as an attempt to weaken the Assembly of Experts by 'Atta'ollah Mohajerati, Hashemi-Rafsanjani's aide.

The struggle between 'Ali Akbar Mohtashemi and Hashemi-Rafsanjani over the measures taken by the Assembly of Experts took place when this organization, in its three-day meeting, approved regulations under which, in the next elections for the Assembly of Experts, the competence of the nominees will be determined by theologians on the Council of Guardians.

The approval of these regulations prompted 'Ali Akbar Mohtashemi to criticize their approval in a harsh speech to the Majles. The new measures place this assembly at the disposal of the regime's leader with no accountability, and this automatically eliminates changing or dismissing the current leader.

Until now, Assembly of Experts nominees could be selected at the seminaries with the confirmation of three persons with independent discretion in matters of religious jurisprudence, or external teachers.

The importance of the Assembly of Experts in the government of the Islamic Republic, more than anything else, has to do with this assembly's discretion in the appointment of the regime's leader. It was this same assembly that chose Seyyed 'Ali Khameneh'i as the regime's highest official after the death of the Ayatollah Khomeyni, and gave him the rank of Ayatollah.

The transfer of authority to determine the competence of Assembly of Experts to the Council of Guardians raises the problem that from now on the "leader" of the Islamic Republic regime will be able, through the Council of Guardians, to prevent his opponents from joining the Assembly of Experts, because he himself appoints most of the members of the Council of Guardians, and the others must be appointed with his confirmation. Thus even the freedom that existed within the Islamic regime's circle of power in the formation of some of its organizations is disappearing.

The approval of regulations for determining the competence of nominees to the Assembly of Experts, which will be entirely detrimental to the Mohtashemi-Karrubi faction, was vehemently attacked by 'Ali Akbar Mohtashemi, the leader of the Islamic Republic regime's hard-line faction.

In his pre-agenda speech to the Majles last Thursday, 'Ali Akbar Mohtashemi protested this matter, which had been clearly prepared by Khameneh'i and Hashemi-Rafsanjani, calling it a "provocation aimed at weakening the Assembly of Experts."

In his pre-agenda speech, 'Ali Akbar Mohtashemi said: The appointment and nomination to the Assembly of Experts was done in such a way that it could not be tainted by factional and political concerns, and that created such soundness for the Assembly of Experts that it had the complete confidence of the people, and more importantly, His Holiness the Imam himself signed the laws on determining competence and appointing members of the Assembly of Experts.

Unfortunately, we have seen recently a provocation aimed at weakening the Assembly of Experts, and it will lower it from its current status to that of an assembly that simply represents the ideas of a special group.

Determining the competence of nominees by three persons at the seminaries with independent discretion in matters of religious jurisprudence, or external teachers, which was also approved by the Imam, actually put the credibility of the entire clergy behind the competence of the Assembly of Experts, but today competence is to be determined by the Council of Guardians, which, like it or not, is subject to interference from a certain way of thinking.

The Imam clearly believes in keeping a balance between the two factions, and he gives bitter and sweet reminders to both of them to keep this balance. There is a great danger today as the foundation is being laid for the Assembly of Experts becoming aligned to a single faction, and this will weaken the Assembly of Experts.

'Ali Akbar Mohtashemi discussed the Council of Guardians' lack of competence to perform such a duty. He said: Another problem that will be created by weakening the Assembly of Experts is, how will the Council of Guardians, appointed by the leader, be able to determine the competence of people whose most important responsibility has to do with the duties of the leadership?

Won't future decisions, even if made freely and simply in the performance of religious duty, be challenged as having been made in the service of a prior agenda?

After 'Ali Akbar Mohtashemi's critical speech against the decision of the Assembly of Experts, 'Atta'ollah Mohajerati, aide to Hashemi-Rafsanjani for legal and Majles affairs, published an article in the newspaper ETTELA'AT rejecting 'Ali Akbar Mohtashemi's criticism, saying it was due to Mohtashemi's lack of information and ignorance.

Mohajerati said that 'Ali Akbar Mohtashemi's remarks were aimed at weakening the Assembly of Experts.

The TEHRAN TIMES newspaper also published an article against 'Ali Akbar Mohtashemi's remarks, and wrote that the harsh criticism of the decisions of the Assembly of Experts show that these provocative attacks were devised beforehand, and are supported by groups who are trying to weaken the foundation of the Islamic government, and damage the prestige and credibility of the Assembly of Experts.

Political observers believe that in principle 'Ali Akbar Mohtashemi's criticism of this matter is correct, and since the dismissal and appointment of the leader of the Islamic Republic is at the discretion of the Assembly of Experts, the competence of its representatives cannot be determined by the Council of Guardians, which itself is appointed by the "leader." Under such circumstances, the regime's leader can always, and to his advantage, put people on the Assembly of Experts who will not decide against him to dismiss him.

*Pilot Asks Political Asylum From Saudi Arabia

90AS0282B London KEYHAN in Persian
26 Jul 90 p 1

[Text] Saturday 21 July the official news agency of Saudi Arabia announced that an Iranian Air Force Pilot had flown in his helicopter from southern Iran and landed on Saudi Arabian soil. The Saudi press agency reports that this pilot, who also brought his wife, three children and sister, flew across the Persian Gulf at very low altitudes by helicopter and landed on the eastern shore of Saudi Arabia. Displaying a white flag, he asked Saudi officials for political asylum for himself and his family.

The pilot's name has not yet been revealed by Saudi officials, and the Islamic Republic regime has also declined to publish news of this pilot's asylum. Radio Iran has made no reference to this incident in its news reports.

*Other Signatories to Rafsanjani Letter Arrested

90AS0282C London KEYHAN in Persian
26 Jul 90 p 1

[Text] With the arrest of three advocates of freedom who had signed the open and critical letter to Hashemi Rafsanjani, the number of persons arrested in connection with this letter has reached 21.

The three persons arrested in Tehran last week are Engineer Hashem Sabaghian, Khosrow Parsa, and Hormoz Momizi, all three are members of the Defense of Freedom and Rule of the Iranian Nation Society.

In a published statement, the National Front of Iran in Europe announced that Dr. Nur'ali Tabandeh is in a critical state of health in Evin prison. Last week it was also announced that the state of health of 'Ali Ardelan, the 90-year-old chief of the Defense of Freedom and Rule of the Iranian Nation Society, who is also in Evin prison, is critical, and that the regime's cruel officials in Evin prison have subjected this old man to severe physical and psychological torture, to force him to make untrue and incorrect confessions.

In its latest statement, the National Front of Iran gave a grave warning concerning the danger of torture officials in Evin prison using implements of torture to force prisoners to make false and untrue confessions. There is now concern in Tehran that the resistance of those arrested, most of whom are elderly, will break under torture in Evin Prison and they will confess to crimes they never committed, and these incorrect confessions will be used against them in unjust courts.

In its statement, the National Front of Iran proposed that a front be formed composed of all freedom-loving forces and political groups to defend the lives of the political prisoners in Iran.

*Egypt, IRI To Renew Relations Soon

90AS0282D London KEYHAN in Persian
26 Jul 90 p 1

[Text] Informed political sources in the Middle East have expressed the view that political relations between Iran and Egypt will be resumed sooner than expected. With Syrian mediation, the two nations recently began extensive efforts to establish full relations.

This week during the conference of Islamic foreign ministers, 'Ali Akbar Velayati, Iran's foreign minister, will meet in Cairo with Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak and that country's foreign minister to discuss the normalization of relations and preparations for a meeting between Rafsanjani and Mubarak. It is said that by invitation of Hafiz al-Asad, Rafsanjani and Mubarak will meet in Damascus or Cairo. The Islamic Republic, which took the initiative for this reconciliation, has also accepted Egypt's conditions.

*Government Said Planning To Move Capital

90AS0282E London KEYHAN in Persian
26 Jul 90 p 3

[Text] The chief of the Majles Housing and Urban Construction Commission announced that the regime plans to move the capital to four other places.

Engineer Shahregi told newsmen in a press conference that in view of the existing problems in Tehran, this city cannot be called a capital, and that four areas are being considered for relocating the capital, and the task of transferring the center of Tehran to one or two of the four locations will begin soon.

He did not give any additional information to reporters about the four locations under consideration, and he did not say whether the nation's political center would also be moved.

*Council To Return Repossessed Land to Farmers

90AS0282F London KEYHAN in Persian
26 Jul 90 p 3

[Text] The council to assign agricultural lands that the Islamic Republic regime has taken away from their owners by force is gradually turning these lands over to farmers.

Last week 7,200 hectares of such agricultural lands in the province of Hamadan were given to 467 rural families. More than 76,000 hectares of agricultural land in Hamadan Province have been confiscated by the Islamic Republic regime without the agreement of the owners, but all of these lands have not yet been transferred to farmers.

During the forcible confiscation of these lands by the regime, agricultural lands were used for "temporary cultivation."

*Deputy Condemns Economic Policies as 'Treason'

90AS0282G London KEYHAN in Persian
26 Jul 90 p 3

[Text] The Majles Taft deputy, in a vehement attack on the economic officials of Hashemi Rafsanjani's government, said that they are the primary cause of high prices, and said that in a short time they raised the price of foreign exchange from 80 tomans to 127 tomans, and at the same time they announced that there is no system for setting and controlling prices. He said: If this was your foreign exchange policy from the beginning, it is a great act of treason.

In his pre-agenda speech, 'Ali Reza Farzad, Taft deputy, began by objecting to the fact that government officials constantly talk about comfort and ease of life and give slogans about social justice. He said: While high prices get higher every day and inflation becomes more crushing, and when the cause of the high prices of many goods is the government itself, they still give out slogans about comfort and ease. Elsewhere in his talk, he announced decisively: The reality of the nation's shortage of foreign exchange and income is such that for years there has been no possibility of creating a comfortable life, and this is no slogan. The government recently increased the official price of meat to 230 tomans per kilogram, and under these circumstances they still give slogans about ease and low prices. The Taft deputy added:

In a short time the economic managers raised the price of foreign exchange from 80 tomans to 127 tomans, and at the same time it is announced that there is no system for setting and controlling prices. If this was your foreign exchange policy from the beginning, it is a great act of treason, because you have poured almost $1 billion of the nation's foreign exchange into the pockets of a few people, and those goods have no sooner reached the market than a new price is announced, and there is no system of control. If you make a new decision and a new policy every day, it is unfortunate.

*Pakistan Accord Signed on Exchange of Criminals

90AS0282H London KEYHAN in Persian
26 Jul 90 p 3

[Text] A prisoner exchange agreement has been signed between officials of Iran's border provinces and Pakistan. This agreement was signed for the Pakistani side by an official of the province of Baluchestan, and for the Iranian side by an aide to the governor-general in the province of Sistan va Baluchestan. Based on this agreement, the two sides will cooperate in detaining felons and turning them over to each other.

The use of the word "felons" in this agreement and the low level of the government officials who signed it shows that it cannot be regarded as an extradition treaty. An extradition treaty, which is usually signed by high-level foreign ministry officials, includes all lawbreakers, whether they be felons or nonfelons.

The prisoner exchange agreement was signed in the city of Kawineh, Pakistan. During this meeting agreements were also signed concerning the construction of border guard posts and the joint struggle against "insurgents" and smugglers.

*Increase in Trade With West Germany Reported

90AS0282J London KEYHAN in Persian
26 Jul 90 p 2

[Text] In the first three months of the current year the value of goods exported and imported between West Germany and Iran increased 24.5 and 16.8 percent, respectively, over the same period last year.

Last week the German Ministry of Economics announced that West Germany's imports from Iran in the first three months of this year were valued at more than 454.9 million marks. This is 51 million marks more than the first three months of last year.

West Germany's exports to Iran in the first three months of this year were valued at 749.6 million marks, compared to 557.2 million marks in the same period last year. Automobile exports from West Germany to Iran in the first three months of the current year increased 43 percent over the same period last year.

Other German exports to Iran are as follows:

Machinery valued at 200.5 million marks.

Electrical equipment valued at 104.1 million marks.

Chemical products valued at 155.3 million marks.

Steel products and steel valued at 84 million marks.

Food products valued at 34.7 million marks.

*Austria Signs Million Dollar Trade Agreement

90AS0282L London KEYHAN in Persian
26 Jul 90 p 14

[Text] Following the signing of a $3-billion commercial exchange protocol between the Islamic Republic and Austria early this year, sources close to this country's Ministry of Commerce revealed that an Austrian bank, in cooperation with the commercial branch of the Fust-Alisa Industrial Group belonging to the Austrian Government, intends to arrange for the export of quantities of industrial machinery as well as advanced technology to the Islamic Republic, and in return it will receive oil from this country.

According to a report published in a Vienna newspaper, the value of commercial exchanges between the Islamic Republic and Austria through the Austrian Agriculture and Labor Bank is about $100 million. These exchanges took place over a one-year period, and the commercial branch of the government Fust-Alisa Industrial Group, which operates under the name Inter-Trade Bank, will receive crude oil from the Islamic Republic, sell it on the international market, and use the foreign exchange obtained to pay Austrian machinery exporters.

In the years 1981-1988, the Inter-Trade Bank, the commercial branch of the Fust-Alisa Industrial Group, has been able to take advantage of the Islamic Republic's many needs for war equipment, consumer and basic goods and work with the Tehran regime's officials as a broker. It has obtained crude oil and marketed it, and in return has purchased some of the weapons and goods needed by the Islamic Republic and delivered them to this country. Of course the commercial branch of the Fust-Alisa Industrial Group of Austria, due to administrative and internal problems, as well as the enormous financial abuses that have occurred within this organization, has been greatly damaged. Even so, commercial experts have announced that during the last ten years Austria's major transactions with the Islamic Republic have meant that a significant part of the losses in the Fust-Alisa Industrial Group have been recovered with the profits from profitable trade with the Islamic Republic.

*FRG Imports Up 30 Percent Over Last Year

90AS0282M London KEYHAN in Persian
26 Jul 90 p 14

[Text] Using its extensive economic relations with the Islamic Republic, the Federal Republic of Germany is persistently seeking to increase its exports to this nation. Based on statistics published by West German commercial sources, in the first four months of the current year this country increased its exports to the Islamic Republic 30 percent compared to the same period in 1989.

Currently the Federal Republic of Germany is the Islamic Republic's largest trading partner in Europe, and it has conquered Iran's domestic markets with exports of materials, industrial, semi-industrial and consumer goods, and food.

Early last week the Commercial Bank of the Federal Republic of Germany published statistics on Germany's trade with other countries during January, February, March and April this year, and announced that during this period the Federal Republic of Germany exported 980 million marks in goods and materials to the Islamic Republic. The Commercial Bank of the Federal Republic of Germany also announced that the value of this nation's imports from the Islamic Republic during the period under discussion is about 400 million marks. A comparison of the value of the Islamic Republic's imports from the Federal Republic of Germany with its exports to this country shows that the balance of trade between Tehran and Bonn is significantly weighted in favor of Germany.

The Federal Republic of Germany's commercial sources have announced that currently most of the Islamic Republic's exports to the Federal Republic of Germany are crude oil, and heading the list of nonpetroleum exports from the Islamic Republic to the Federal Republic of Germany are hand-woven wool carpets, pistachios and pistachio meats, dried fruits, hides, caviar, ores, and other industrial goods. West German foreign commerce experts believe that in view of the strong commercial ties between Bonn and Tehran, the value of West Germany's exports to the Islamic Republic will reach about 3.5 to 3.8 billion marks in the current year.

*Imports Said More Than Double Over Last Year

90AS0202M London KEYHAN in Persian 21 Jul 90 p 4

[Text] In the first two months of the current year (1369 [21 March-21 May 1990]) a total of more than 2.245 million tons of various consumer goods, foodstuffs, and materials were purchased and imported into the country from the industrial nations of the world, especially Japan and the European nations. This figure, compared to the level of imports in the same period the previous year, represents an increase of 214 percent.

The acting director of the Islamic Republic's Ports and Shipping Organization recently announced that this organization now has more than 805,000 tons of

imported goods in its warehouses, and this is more than three times that figure for last year. The acting director of this organization told reporters: In the months of Farvardin and Ordibehesht of the current year [21 March-21 May] the nation's imports of non-petroleum goods have increased more than 139 percent. The official added: A maritime intelligence system is to be established so that on that basis all maritime difficulties, whether technical or with regard to naval equipment, will be resolved as quickly as possible. This requires that all naval organizations give this organization the necessary cooperation.

*Further on SAIPA Company Financial Abuses

90AS0282I London KEYHAN in Persian
26 Jul 90 p 2

[Text] Last year during the investigation of the SAIPA Company's financial abuses, the Islamic Republic's minister of heavy industries, Behzad Nabavi, was also drawn into the affair and was summoned to the Majles. In view of Behzad Nabavi's involvement in the SAIPA thefts, Hashemi Rafsanjani refrained from assigning him to position and responsibility.

At the same time the Majles designated a special group to investigate the thefts of the SAIPA Company, whose managers illegally sold French-made Renaults on the free market instead of turning them over to individuals and institutions at prices that were multiples of ten above the purchase price, and then pocketed the difference. Now the newspaper RESALAT, which plays the role of exposer of thefts by the regime's officials, is gradually printing this group's report.

In this report's 15th installment, letters exchanged between Turaj Mansur, acting director of the SAIPA Company, and Behzad Nabavi and one his friends, are published.

In a letter to his friend, the director of the SAIPA Company writes: I ask you, where else in the world is there so much freedom and possibility for trade? In any case, we have gone far down the path of money and trade. Of course, it is unavoidable. The situation is so perfect that all you have to do is take the first step into trade and business and then by pressure and force, you fall into the easy money. In short, unfortunately and without our wishing it, we have found ourselves in this chaotic commercial environment.

In a five-page letter to Behzad Nabavi, minister of heavy industries, he writes:

I know that unfortunately neither these sentences nor simple street language are effective in the eyes of these mental and physical dwarfs. The report states that: What he means by the mental and physical dwarfs is Engineer Mir Hoseyn Musavi, the Islamic Republic's prime minister and those involved with the government penalties. One week after the arrest of Turaj Mansur, Behzad Nabavi wrote a letter to Musavi, the prime minister at the time, asking for his release. Part of the letter's text reads as follows: The detention of Mr. Mansur, no matter what the accusation, first of all, was without my knowledge and against your own guidelines...second, it was a most mistaken, inhumane and un-Islamic procedure. Third, while we ourselves turn thieves and bribe takers from companies under your jurisdiction over to the judiciary and they are immediately released, why should the acting director of a government company be arrested like a political criminal?

Finally a meeting was held that was attended by Behzad Nabavi; Musavi, prime minister; Reyshahri, minister of intelligence; Mirzadeh, chief of government penalties; and a member of the research group, to investigate Behzad Nabavi's protest.

In this two-hour meeting, documents and evidence of theft by SAIPA Company managers and confessions made by Mr. Mansur and his group were shown to Behzad Nabavi. At the end of the meeting Behzad Nabavi announced: How do we know that these confessions were not obtained under pressure and torture?

We note that the abuses by SAIPA Company managers have been estimated at least seven billion rials and that members of the Islamic Republic's Consulate at the United Arab Emirates were also involved in these thefts. They issued driver's licenses for Iranian workers in the United Arab Emirates, who actually did not exist. Automobiles were then taken out of the factory in their names and sold on the free market.

*Military Planes Used for Transport of Goods

90AS0282K London KEYHAN in Persian
26 Jul 90 p 14

[Text] Due to the limited freight capacity of the Iran National Airline Homa, and in order to increase nonpetroleum exports, the Islamic Republic's Ministry of Commerce intends to use transport planes belonging to the Islamic Republic's army.

'Abdol-Hoseyn Vahaji, the minister of commerce of Tehran's Islamic regime, announced this to the press recently during a trip to Yasuj. During his press conference he noted that authorization has been obtained to use military transport planes to carry export goods.

The official also announced that currently commercial licenses are being issued to applicants within one week. He discussed the government's recent decisions on imports and exports. He said: The import of some goods without the transfer of foreign exchange is free, and everyone can import these goods. Other goods are imported in three groups with competitive, preferred and government foreign exchange. The first group is exempt from price setting and the distribution system.

During his press conference, the Islamic Republic's minister of commerce discussed the problems in the way of exporters. He said: The nation does not have an export culture, and exporters face implementation problems such as standards, price setting, customs, transportation, and commercial authorization.

He explained that in the world's exports, no one sets standards, and goods are procured and exported based on the need and demand of buyers.

*Air Force Planes Converted for Passenger Use

90AS0202J London KEYHAN in Persian 21 Jul 90 p 4

[Text] When the necessary authorization is obtained, and under the supervision of the Air Travel Organization, a large number of non-military aircraft such as Boeing 707's, 747 jumbo jets, and F27's will soon be put to use hauling cargo and passengers, and many cities and various areas will be served by these flights.

The above was announced recently to newsmen and media correspondents by Nurian, head of the National Air Travel Organization. In his talk, he disclosed that in addition to the aircraft listed, 100 light aircraft will soon be made available for use by the public and private sectors by the National Air Travel Organization and the Iran air travel industries. Without saying what he meant by the public and private sectors or how and under what conditions aircraft would be given to these sectors, he said that this is one of the measures being taken by the organization to procure aircraft and alleviate the shortage of passenger aircraft.

The chief of the National Air Travel Organization announced in his press conference that in the near future Terminal One at Tehran's Mehrabad Airport will be used for regional flights to Dubayy, Syria, and elsewhere.

The official added: Preparations are being made for non-petroleum exports through the airports and transit shops are being equipped, with customs duties collected and help provided by the private and non-government sector. Nurian told reporters that the National Air Travel Organization plans to build air travel clubs in eight cities to provide flight training to the people.

*Airport Revenues To Fund Import of 24 Planes

90AS0282O London KEYHAN in Persian 26 Jul 90 p 14

[Text] This year the Islamic Republic will buy 24 small passenger planes from abroad using airport revenues. Of these aircraft, 12 are to be given to the Iran National Airline, Homa, and the other half are to be given to Asman Airlines. An air transportation expert told KEYHAN's reporter that the aircraft in question will be Fokker Friendship models and comparable Russian models, and evidently the Islamic Republic has held the necessary talks about purchasing these aircraft with the builder officials, including the Russians and the Dutch.

'Ali Mohammad Nurian, chief of the National Aircraft Organization, recently took part in a press conference and told press representatives that the purchase of the 24 aircraft had been approved by the Economic Council, and that the purchase contracts will be signed with the builder nations by the end of the current year.

During his press conference, the official said: The National Aircraft Organization's foreign exchange credit this year is $90.5 million, and this credit is for equipping airports, purchasing radar and towers, and completing the Tehran Airways and Airports Control Center.

'Ali Mohammad Nurian also announced that Ahvaz International Airport will soon replace Abadan International Airport.

Concerning the expansion of international flights, the chief of the National Aircraft Organization said: A flight will soon be scheduled from Kuwait to Mashhad, and aircraft from Pakistan's PIA airline will make these flights. He noted that the Afghan regime has also proposed the establishment of flights between Kabul and Mashhad, and this matter is under consideration.

'Ali Mohammad Nurian also told reporters: The quantitative goals of the National Aircraft Organization include increasing the number of passengers carried on domestic flights from five million in 1367 [21 March 1988-20 March 1989] to 7.5 million in 1372 [21 March 1993-20 March 1994]. He added: In the nation's first economic expansion plan the capacity to carry passengers on international flights will increase at the rate of 10.7 percent, and domestic flights will also be completed with a growth rate of 16.2 percent. He noted: With a 15-percent increase in the number of the nation's airports over five years, there will be a 15-percent increase in airport passenger capacity, and the use of aircraft will also increase 2.2 percent.

'Ali Mohammad Nurian announced that one of the goals of the National Aircraft Organization is to build hotels at the nation's international airports. He said: For the six international airports at Tehran, Mashhad, Tabriz, Esfahan, Shiraz, and Bandar 'Abbas, airport hotels are being built. He added: By turning the free stores at airports over to domestic and foreign companies, an effort will be made, from the proceeds of their sales, to build better facilities for passengers.

*Highway To Connect Qazvin With Zanjan

90AS0282N London KEYHAN in Persian 26 Jul 90 p 14

[Text] The Islamic Republic's Ministry of Roads and Transportation, with financial cooperation and investment from the National Bank of Iran, will build a freeway from Qazvin to Zanjan. The cost of building this road has been estimated at about 50 billion rials, and the nation's transportation officials intend to meet construction expenses by charging tolls for its use.

The recent groundbreaking ceremonies for the Qazvin-Zanjan freeway were attended by Sa'idi-Kiya, the Islamic Republic's minister of roads and transportation, Amir Aslani, the chief of the National Bank of Iran, and the heads of the Majles Economics and Financial Affairs Commission.

The Qazvin-Zanjan freeway will be about 180 kilometers long, and it will extend the Tehran-Qazvin highway to Zanjan. This road has four lanes, and it is expected that construction will be completed and it will be ready for use in four years.

*Energy Ministry on Joint USSR Dam Project

90AS0202I London KEYHAN in Persian 21 Jul 90 p 4

[Text] Experts from the Islamic Republic and the Soviet Union are building two earth dams across the border Aras River. The agreement to build the two earth dams, Khoda Afarin and Qiz Qel'ehsi, across the Aras River was recently signed by officials of the East Azarbaijan Water Organization and Russian officials, and next week steps will be taken on this joint project by experts from the two countries.

According to a report from the Islamic Republic, in addition to their cooperation with the Islamic Republic on building earth dams across the Aras River, Russian officials will also help with the construction of the Chat dam across the Atrak border river in the Province of Mazandaran and the Pol-e Khatun dam across the Harirud River in Khorasan Province.

An official of the Islamic Republic's Ministry of Energy announced that the two dams in the provinces of Mazandaran and Khorasan will be built with joint capital from Iran and the Soviet Union, and the use of these two dams will be economically beneficial. This official told reporters that when the Harirud and Atrak dams are built, some of the water needed for agriculture and animal husbandry in the provinces of Mazandaran and Khorasan provinces will be obtained. The acting minister of energy, who had gone to Gorgan to inspect various operations, told reporters: The construction of the Khoda Afarin and Qiz Qel'ehsi dams across the Aras River will procure some of the water needed by the Moghan Desert.

The official added: The construction of the four dams being discussed across the rivers bordering Iran and the Soviet Union in the course of the Five-Year Economic Expansion Plan, in addition to procuring drinking water for the area and water needed for agriculture and fish farming, will provide the water needed for a vast area of land being cultivated in the area.

*Non-Oil Exporters Partially Exempt From Tax

90AS0202K London KEYHAN in Persian 21 Jul 90 p 4

[Text] Exporters of traditional and production goods will be exempt from some export taxes. The exemption of merchants and exporters of non-petroleum goods is included in the Export-Import Regulations Bill now being studied in the Majles. As soon as these regulations are approved, the conditions and level of export taxation will be announced to merchants and people involved in export activities.

Announcing the above, 'Abdol Hoseyn Vahaji, the Islamic Republic's minister of commerce, announced that last year the Islamic Republic exported goods and materials valued at $1.22 billion, and this figure represents a 24 percent increase over the $960 million in non-petroleum exports for the year 1367 [21 March 1988-20 March 1989]. The Islamic Republic's minister of commerce announced that the nation's non-petroleum exports will increase to almost $2 billion, and he added that exporters of non-petroleum goods would be paid the necessary export foreign exchange by the government and the Central Bank.

'Abdol Hoseyn Vahaji told a correspondent from KEYHAN of Tehran, "The government's policy of procuring basic goods with competitive foreign exchange will continue as last year, and the Islamic Republic's competitive foreign exchange policy is that merchants should meet the needs of society with competitive foreign exchange, and partly with official and export foreign exchange."

Concerning preparations for increasing non-petroleum exports, the official said: The goals of the Ministry of Commerce for its future programs include reducing executive obstacles, creating export unions, improving the quality of export goods, creating a model export culture, participation in various expositions on non-petroleum exports, and similar measures.

*Krupp Steel Shows Profit After Sustained Losses

90AS0202L London KEYHAN in Persian 21 Jul 90 p 4

[Text] The Krupp Steel Corporation of the Federal Republic of Germany, 25 percent of whose shares are owned by Iran, after sustaining years of losses, announced that in 1989 it made a profit of about 563 million marks.

This year the Krupp Company will be able to pay small dividends to its shareholders for the first time since 1974.

Last year this company spent most of its income converting old machinery to new equipment, and it took losses because of the shutdown of the steel plant in the city of [Oppenhausen], and was able to distribute only a limited amount of profit to shareholders. Industrial publications printed in the Federal Republic of Germany gave a figure of about 55 million marks as Krupp Steel's net profit for last year. These sources announced that the Krupp Company's 1989 sales, increasing 30 percent over 1988, reached 816 billion marks, more than 40 percent of which was from foreign sales.

Reports published in the Federal Republic of Germany press state that the financial condition of Krupp Steel

has gradually improved, and that in the future this production unit will be in a strong position. Last year Krupp Steel increased its production of raw sheet steel from 2.3 million tons in 1988 to 4.6 million tons. Along with that, the company also increased its production of sheet steel last year, sending a total of more than four million tons of this product to the markets of the world.

Of all the shares of Krupp Steel, 70.4 percent are owned by the [Frederich] Krupp Company, 25 percent are owned by Iran, and the rest are owned by small shareholders. Economic sources from the Federal Republic of Germany said that the Krupp Steel Company has about 8,000 small shareholders.

*Legality of Police Consolidation Questioned

90AS0202N London KEYHAN in Persian 21 Jul 90 p 4

[Text] Brigadier General Seyyed Reza Niknezhad, the head of the National Sheriff's Organization, said that consolidation of the law enforcement forces is contrary to principles 145 and 172 of the Constitution, but he stressed that if the order is given to do so compliance by the law enforcement forces will be obligatory.

The chief of the National Sheriff's Organization was asked the reasons for his opposition to the consolidation of the gendarmerie, the sheriff's offices, and the Komitehs by the newspaper RESALAT. He said now that he has been asked about this as a consultant and as an expert, he has an obligation under religious law and must state the truth carefully.

He confirmed that he supports the views of Hojjat ol-Eslam Ashtiani, Khamene'i's representative in the gendarmerie, who has opposed consolidation of the law enforcement forces.

General Niknezhad told RESALAT's reporter:

One of the foundations of our nation is the Constitution. The bill for consolidation of the law enforcement forces is contrary to principles 145 and 172 of the Constitution. In these two principles the law enforcement forces are mentioned specifically by name. Therefore the consolidation bill, if it is presented as a method of unifying forces, is against the law.

He enumerated the reasons for his opposition to consolidation of the law enforcement forces, and he rejected the pretexts that have been offered for consolidation of the gendarmerie, the sheriff's offices, and the komitehs. He said: Currently the law enforcement forces have a unified command, especially since early 1369 [21 March 1990-20 March 1991] when the Law Enforcement Forces Staff was formed in the Ministry of the Interior and it coordinates the activities of all three law enforcement forces. There is no problem with respect to command.

General Niknezhad also rejected the argument of economy. He said: The price of security of a society is much higher than these insignificant sums, for us to want to throw in all the nation's law enforcement and security organizations together and with the result of making them not responsible to society because of budget and credit shortfalls.

He emphasized that if all three forces are consolidated, constructive competition will no longer exist between the law enforcement forces and it will disappear. General Niknezhad explained that instead of consolidation of the law enforcement forces, it would be better for them to define responsibilities and set the limits of each force.

The chief of the National Sheriff's Organization discussed the specialties of the sheriff's offices. He said:

We have tens of responsibilities in the sheriff's offices, each with its special characteristics and law, and the sheriff's offices must carry them out. There are also technical tasks. We have had 70 years of experience with them, and it would be a pity today if we did not use the experiences we have gathered for the revolution, the people, and security.

General Niknezhad also rejected the argument that there is overlap of responsibilities among the law enforcement forces. He said: If the law enforcement forces would cooperate with each other more, that would prevent overlapping responsibilities and discontentment.

The chief of the National Sheriff's Organization warned that no decision should be made that will lead to poorly-conceived activity. Despite his warning, however, the entire bill for consolidation of the law enforcement forces was approved in the Majles.

Pakistan

Thousands Rally To Condemn U.S. Intervention

BK2308161090 Hong Kong AFP in English 1551 GMT 23 Aug 90

[Text] Islamabad, Aug 23 (AFP)—A Shiite rally attended by thousands of people here Thursday denounced the U.S. military intervention in the Gulf following the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait. Amidst chants of "Death to America," the speakers at the meeting also condemned the decision of Pakistan's caretaker government to send troops to Saudi Arabia. Observers estimated the crowd at 15,000 to 20,000.

Heavy police contingents guarded the U.S. embassy and American Centre here during the rally organized by the Tehrik Nifaz-e-Fiqha-Jafria (TNFJ), the main body of Pakistani Shiites constituting 20 per cent of the country's 110 million population. The gathering commemorated the anniversaries of the death of Iranian leader Ayatollah Khomeyni and TNFJ founder Arif Al Hussaini who was assassinated in the northwestern city of Peshawar two years ago. Delegations from all over the country participated. The Iranian ambassador to Pakistan, Jawad Mansuri, also attended. "The Saudi move to induct American forces on the sacred soil proves that the corrupt House of Saud has no support among the

people," said the TNFJ president, Sajid Ali Naqvi. In his firey 30-minute address, Mr. Naqvi called the Saudi rulers "exploiters" of the Moslem holy places.

Condemning Iraqi President Saddam Husayn for invading Kuwait, Mr. Naqvi said it was absurd to claim that there could be any threat to the holy shrines from a Moslem. He said the caretaker Pakistan Government had followed American "orders" in agreeing to send troops to the Saudi kingdom. "They are only aiding American designs," he said, adding the claim of defending sacred places "is only a smokescreen." TNFJ Secretary General Iftikhar Hussain Naqvi accused the Americans of controlling affairs in Pakistan. He said the Saudi royal family was acting as "agent of Zionists and Americans."

Prime Minister on Indian 'Brutalities' in Kashmir

BK2408030890 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 24 Aug 90

[Text] Prime Minister Ghulam Mustafa Jatoi has said that the government is fully aware of the brutalities which the unarmed civilian population is being subjected to in occupied Kashmir. The indiscriminate massacre of Kashmiris has exposed hollow Indian claims about secularism. He said that India has ignored all human and moral values in Kashmir. The prime minister was talking to Sardar Sikander Hayat Khan, the former prime minister of Azad Jammu and Kashmir [AJK], and Sardar Ibrahim Khan, the president of the AJK People's Party, who called on him separately in Islamabad yesterday.

The prime minister urged the civilized world not to forget the crimes of Indian forces in occupied Kashmir. He said the current political trends in various parts of the world clearly indicate that repressive measures cannot keep the people subjugated for long. He expressed the hope that the innumerable sacrifices of the Kashmiri people will yield fruits soon and that they will be able to decide their future according to their wishes and aspirations.

Special Courts To Try Former Ministers

BK2308170690 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 1600 GMT 23 Aug 90

[Text] The president has established special courts consisting of high court judges in exercise of powers conferred by [constitutional] Article 3 of The Parliament and Provincial Assemblies Disqualification From Membership Order 1977. The high court judges are: Mr. Justice Munnawar Ahmad Mirza of Balochistan High Court, Mr. Justice Rashid Aziz Khan and Mr. Justice Munir A. Shaikh of Lahore High Court, Mr. Fazal Elahi Khan of Peshawar High Court, and Mr. Justice Wajiuddin Ahmad and Mr. Justice Mukhtar Ahmad Junejo of Sindh High Court. The special courts shall sit at the principal seats of various high courts.

The federal government has established special courts consisting of high court judges in exercise of powers conferred by [constitutional] Article 4 of the Holders of Representative Offices Punishment for Misconduct Order 1977. The judges and the class of cases in respect of which each one of them shall exercise jurisdiction under the order are:

Mr. Justice Malik Abdul Majid Tiwana of Lahore High Court—Cases relating to persons who have held the office of prime minister or attorney general or to persons who have held the office of federal minister, minister of state, or member of National Assembly or of Senate, and were elected as members of the National Assembly or of the Senate from the constituencies in the Province of Punjab, or as the case may be by the provincial assembly of the province.

Mr. Justice Tanvir Ahmad Khan of Lahore High Court—Cases relating to persons who had held the office of chief minister, provincial minister, or advocate general in the province of Punjab, or of member of the provincial assembly of that province.

Mr. Justice Sayed Abdul Rahman Shah of Sindh High Court—Cases relating to persons who have held the office of prime minister or to persons who have held the office of federal minister, minister of state or member of the National Assembly or of the Senate and were elected as member of the National Assembly or the Senate from the constituencies in the Province of Sindh, or as the case may be by the provincial assembly of that province; cases relating to persons who have held the office of federal minister, minister of state or member of the National Assembly or of the Senate and were elected as members of the National Assembly or of the Senate from the constituencies in the Province of Balochistan, or as the case may be by the provincial assembly of that province; cases relating to persons who have held the office of chief minister, provincial minister, or advocate general in the Province of Balochistan, or as member of the provincial assembly of that province.

Mr. Justice Mahmud Qazi of Sindh High Court—Cases relating to persons who have held the office of chief minister, provincial minister or advocate general in the Province of Sindh or as member of the provincial assembly of that province.

Mr. Justice Wali Mohammad Khan, additional judge of Peshawar High Court—Cases relating to persons who have held the office of federal minister, minister of state, or member of the National Assembly or of the Senate and were elected as members of the National Assembly or of the Senate from the constituencies in Northwest Frontier Province, or as the case may be by the provincial assembly of that province; cases relating to persons who have held the office of chief minister, provincial minister or advocate general in the Northwest Frontier Province or as member of the provincial assembly of that province.

MQM Chief Supports Bhutto Government Dismissal

BK2308171090 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 1600 GMT 23 Aug 90

[Text] The MQM [Muhajir Qaumi Movement] chief, Mr. Altaf Hussain, on his arrival in Karachi from London addressed a big public meeting at Shahrah-e-Qauideen this afternoon. He told the meeting that dissolution of the assemblies and the Federal Cabinet was a logical conclusion of an era of tyranny. The MQM chief demanded early repatriation of stranded Pakistanis from Bangladesh. He said they had rendered valuable sacrifices for the creation of Pakistan and had every right to come to their homeland.

Earlier, addressing a news conference, Mr. Altaf Hussain said people involved in crimes, misuse of power, and atrocities should not be spared at any cost. He said if accountability was not held, then the entire exercise of dissolution of the assemblies would be futile. He said yesterday's firing in Karachi was the conspiracy to create hatred among various sections. He criticized the PPP [Pakistan People's Party] government for defending the Pucca Qila [Hyderabad violence against MQM workers] operation and said those involved in it should be punished publicly.

32 Arrested, Questioned on Karachi Shootings

BK2308163990 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 23 Aug 90

[Text] Thirty-two persons have been arrested for interrogation in connection with shooting incidents in Karachi yesterday. Interior Minister Mian Zahid Sarfaraz told newsmen in Islamabad this evening that none of those arrested are from the interior of Sindh. He was of the view that some wing of the Pakistan People's Party's [PPP] might be involved. He added that all those arrested are young people and some of them are from the Pakistan Students Federation [student wing of the PPP].

Mr. Zahid Sarfaraz said 27 people were killed and more than 50 injured, some of them seriously, in yesterday's shooting incidents. He said Prime Minister Ghulam Mustafa Jatoi has directed that the affected families be adequately compensated after completion of the investigation. He expressed heartfelt sympathy and condolences on behalf of the president, the prime minister, and the Cabinet members to the bereaved families. He said an independent inquiry will be conducted into the incidents and no aspect will be ignored.

Earlier, the interior minister informed the Senate, in reply to a point of order raised by Professor Khurshid Ahmad, that the Government anticipated such attacks and was keeping an eye on certain people, but it thought the attacks would take place when a procession was held to greet the arrival of MQM [Muhajir Qaumi Movement] chief Mr. Altaf Hussain. However, the gunmen, who were unidentified, struck one day early against the camps set up by the MQM workers in preparation for Mr. Altaf Hussain's arrival.

Sindh Chief Minister Jam Sadiq Ali told newsmen in Karachi this evening that yesterday's shooting incidents in the city were a well-planned act of terrorism committed by trained criminals. He said it is obvious that a particular political party masterminded the incident to malign the caretaker government. He said the government will give 100,000 rupees to the families of those killed and provide the best possible medical treatment to the injured.

The prime minister has expressed personal grief at the loss of precious lives in yesterday's regrettable incidents. In a statement in Islamabad today, he said he is keeping a strict watch on the situation and is personally in touch with the Sindh Government. The prime minister has directed the provincial government and the security agencies to take appropriate steps for the maintenance of law and order and the security and safety of citizens. He assured the people that those involved in this heinous crime will soon be arrested and given exemplary punishment.

Further Shooting 23 Aug

BK2308111890 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 1100 GMT 23 Aug 90

[Text] One person was killed and six injured in firing by snipers on Sharah-e-Qauideen near (Guru Mandir) in Karachi this afternoon. The dead and injured have been shifted to Abbasi Shaheed hospital. The law enforcing agencies which are patrolling the city controlled the situation and made on-the-spot arrests.

Three Killed, Four Injured in Quetta Shooting

BK2308155090 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 23 Aug 90

[Text] Three persons were killed and four injured in a shooting incident in Quetta today. Two persons are seriously injured while two of those killed were students. An official handout issued this evening said some Balochistan reserve police personnel who are responsible for the shooting, have been arrested. The provincial government has ordered a judicial inquiry into the incident which will be conducted by a high court judge. The Balochistan government has also decided to provide grants to the bereaved families and financial medical assistance to the injured. Meanwhile, all the colleges in the province have been closed for an indefinite period. Balochistan University has also been closed till Sunday.

Maldivian Foreign Secretary Arrives With Message

BK2208121790 Islamabad Overseas Service in English 0800 GMT 22 Aug 90

[Text] The Maldives foreign secretary, Mr. Ibrahim Hussain Zaki, arrived in Islamabad today with a special message of the president, Maumoon Abdul Gayoom, for the prime minister, Mr. Ghulam Mustafa Jatoi. Talking to newsmen on his arrival, Mr. Hussain Zaki said the main purpose of his visit to Pakistan was to exchange views with the Pakistani leaders on the forthcoming

SAARC [South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation] summit to be held in Male in November this year.

Paper Reports Illegal Arms Seized in Islamabad

BK1708132290 Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 17 Aug 90 p 1

[Text] Islamabad, Aug. 16—An army intelligence agency in collaboration with Customs Preventive Staff reportedly recovered more than 300 crates of illegal arms and ammunition worth nearly Rs. 100 million at the Islamabad airport cargo section here this afternoon.

According to sources the arms, mostly comprising automatic weapons like Kalashnikov, were being illegally smuggled into the country by some unknown elements. The arms, reported to be lying in the cargo section for some time were under surveillance by the Inter-Services Intelligence Agency (ISI) who was waiting in the side line to catch the smuggler red-handed.

Customs Authorities Seize Narcotics 22 Aug

BK2308010090 Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 23 Aug 90 p 6

[Text] The Customs authorities seized 4530 kgs of foreign origin [hashish] while being taken to down country and arrested two persons. The charas was recovered from truck No. PRB-842 on G.T. Road Wednesday [22 August] It was hidden under the fertiliser bags.

Sri Lanka

Colombo Asks Iraq To Allow Consulate in Kuwait

BK2308124690 Hong Kong AFP in English 1229 GMT 23 Aug 90

[Text] Colombo, Aug 23 (AFP)—The Sri Lankan Government has asked Iraq to allow a consular office to stay open in place of its embassy in Kuwait to help the thousands of Sri Lankan workers stranded there, a top official said Thursday. Bradman Weerakoon, international affairs advisor to President Ranasinghe Premadasa, told a weekly press briefing in parliament that relations between Colombo and Baghdad were "still good."

"We are discussing with them (Iraq) the possibility of keeping a consular office opened in Kuwait," Mr. Weerakoon said, adding that a consulate would help Colombo sort out the problems of more than 80,000 Sri Lankans working there. Baghdad ordered diplomats in Kuwait to close by Friday their missions in the tiny emirate. Iraq invaded Kuwait on August 2 and subsequently annexed it.

More than 1,400 Sri Lankan workers, mostly maids, have sought refuge in the Kuwait embassy. Hundreds of others have fled to neighbouring countries with the hope of taking a flight home. Since Monday, special flights by Air Lanka have been bringing some of the Sri Lankan workers stranded in the Middle East after fleeing Kuwait. An Air Lanka official said that so far a total of 374 stranded workers have been brought home on the national carrier from Dhahran in Saudi Arabia after escaping from Kuwait. Sri Lankan workers employed in the Middle East and Gulf contribute significantly towards Sri Lanka's foreign exchange reserves.

The crisis has caused panic among 400,000 other Sri Lankans working overseas who have begun remitting large sums of money fearing an escalation in the conflict. The state-owned DAILY OBSERVER quoted the Central Bank Governor H.N.S. Karunatilleke as saying that local banks were flooded with foreign currency from Sri Lankan expatriates employed in Middle East and other gulf countries. Mr. Karunatilleke said the workers feared "that their funds too would be frozen like in Kuwait" in the event of turmoil in those areas.

Minister on Conditions of Citizens in Middle East

BK2308113290 Colombo International Service in English 1045 GMT 23 Aug 90

[Text] The minister of labor and vocational training, G.M. Premachandra, who returned to the island yesterday after a visit to Saudi Arabia and Jordan, told newsmen that the deputy prime minister of Jordan had assured him that food and protection will be given to Sri Lankans in consultation with the Iraqi Government. He said 150 Sri Lankans are stranded in Jordan, while 2,000 have arrived in Saudi Arabia. The Saudi Government will make arrangements to send 500 Sri Lankans back.

The foreign employment bureau will organize a special flight to bring back the stranded Sri Lankans. A special fund will be set up to meet the air fares of those willing to return. The minister said that it has been revealed that Sri Lankans were not harmed during the recent invasion of Iraq.

Meanwhile, the Ministry of Labor with the assistance of local employment agencies and in consultation with the Sri Lankan missions in the Middle East, is examining all possible means of providing alternate employment to those persons who decide to continue their employment in the Middle East.

Charter Flight To Evacuate Citizens From Riyadh

BK2308153090 Colombo LANKAPUVATH in English 1332 GMT 23 Aug 90

["OANA/Pool" item]

[Text] Colombo, 23 Aug (LANKAPUVATH)—The Ministry of Foreign Affairs have arranged with Air Lanka to operate a charter flight on Tuesday, 28th August to repatriate our stranded nationals, who have arrived from Kuwait and are presently in Riyadh. This charter will have a capacity of 232 passengers, states a press release from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

This is in pursuance of the decision by the government to extend facilities to our stranded nationals in the Middle East to return to Sri Lanka as announced through the media yesterday. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs will be

issuing daily releases on the number of seats yet available on this charter until Monday, 27th August. As of today, 23rd August, 229 seats are available.

A special repatriation unit has been set up by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs at its office in Republic Square. Those next of kin seeking repatriation of their stranded relatives could call over either at the consular division of the ministry at No. 9 Sir Baron Jayatilleke Mawatha or at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Republic Square, Colombo-1.

Military Forces Operation Continues in Jaffna

Delhi Reports 20 LTTE Dead

BK2308145690 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1430 GMT 23 Aug 90

[Text] In the continued security forces operation in the Jaffna Peninsula in Sri Lanka, over 20 LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] militants are reported killed. Official reports in Colombo said that a large number of LTTE men were also wounded. Seven army soldiers received gunshot injuries.

Our Colombo correspondent, Karuppuswamy, reports that the operation launched in several areas in Jaffna Peninsula is being supported by air force, navy, and two battalions of infantry. Our correspondent adds that a large number of Tamil civilians have started fleeing the peninsula.

Government Troops Kill 100 Tamils

BK2408060690 Hong Kong AFP in English 0555 GMT 24 Aug 90

[Text] Colombo, Aug 24 (AFP)—Government troops with air support killed more than 100 Tamil rebels in a major military offensive to clean up northern Jaffna Peninsula of separatist guerrillas, military sources here said Friday.

Friday's operation brought the toll of Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) guerrillas killed since Wednesday, when Colombo launched its offensive, to at least 130, the sources said.

Parties Express Concern

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[Text] In Sri Lanka, several political parties have expressed concern at the Operation Fort now being launched by armed forces in the Jaffna peninsula, which has led to civilian killings. Participating in a debate on extension of emergency in the island, members belonging to the SLFP [Sri Lanka Freedom Party], TULF [Tamil United Liberation Front], TELO [Tamil Eelam Liberation Organization], SLMP [Sri Lanka Mahajana Party], and others said in Parliament yesterday that military action for the northeast problem will not bring any lasting solution.

Replying to the debate, the minister of state for defense, Mr. Ranjan Wijeratne, said that the Army is not attacking civilians and that security has been tightened to protect civilians. Later, the bill was passed by majority vote. Our Colombo correspondent, Karuppuswamy, says that this is the 15th extension of emergency. The opposition leader, Mrs. Bandaranaike, has said that the emergency is being misused by the government to suppress the opposition.